Daily Report

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OAS 18th General Assembly Opens in El Salvador

Duarte's Opening Remarks

PA1411191388 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Speech by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte at opening session of 18th OAS General Assembly in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Your excellencies, Messrs Foreign Ministers and chiefs of delegations; Your excellency, OAS Secretary General; Your excellencies, Messrs Permanent Observers; members of the diplomatic corps:

We Salvadorans, Legislative Assembly deputies, Supreme Court of Justice members, and government cabinet members greet all of you and the special guests. Ladies and gentlemen, Salvadoran people:

On behalf of the Salvadoran people and Government I head, I express to such a distinguished audience the warmest welcome, wishing all the participants in this 18th session productive work in this hospitable land, which receives you with open arms.

I extend special greetings to Your Excellencies, Messrs Foreign Ministers and chiefs of delegations, OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, the assistant secretary general, and the officials and administrative personnel of our organization.

In addition to our pride on being the venue for this event—the most relevant in our diplomatic history—for El Salvador, this constitutes an expression of international confidence and support for the efforts our government, along with our people, have been trying to promote an authentic democratic process, promote the defense of freedom, and build the path to peace, the highest aspiration of Salvadorans.

Allow me to thank all those who have supported us in strengthening the democratic process in El Salvador which is building with resolute efforts and unyielding determination.

Answering the question, what must we do with the OAS, I have always thought the OAS should be the appropriate organization to promote a system of peace and justice in the hemispheric community and to promote American solidarity, economic development, and political integration.

I must recognize in this solemn ceremony the praiseworthy determination of OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares in carrying out his constant and resolute work in response to the trust bestowed upon him and to fulfill, with the utmost willingness, his high and delicate mission.

Just 10 years ago, 10 percent of the Western Hemisphere nations were democratic. However, the situation has changed; now 90 percent of the continent's countries are democratic. That positive political change clearly reflects the sovereign will of the peoples who have achieved their freedom through pluralistic and participatory electoral processes.

Despite the aforementioned, it is unquestionable that problems still persist that delay full freedom and democracy for our peoples.

One of these problems, as the secretary general of the OAS has said, is the foreign debt. This problem must be examined, thoroughly taking into consideration the consequences of each possible solution.

While it is true that the debt has a technical aspect, its ethical aspect must also be considered. For this reason, in El Salvador we believe the period for paying the foreign debt should be extended and the interest rate must be lowered so the debt may be paid by this generation without passing it to future generations.

If we do this, we would be offering debtors the opportunity to get paid what is justly theirs, and creditors would have a realistic opportunity to pay.

Another big problem troubling our America and the world is terrorism. Like another apocalyptic horseman, it has apparently damned mankind. This is why I believe it is most important for this assembly to issue a resolution emphatically condemning terrorism and withholding legitimacy from all groups wanting to reach power through violence and terror because the only legitimate source of power is the sovereign will of the people.

A resolution of this nature would be very encouraging for the Salvadoran people, who have been making huge efforts to be able to live in the framework of a participative democracy.

Mr Foreign Ministers and Delegates: When I was sworn in as president on a mandate from the people, I committed myself to a permanent struggle for promoting and respecting human rights. This position is based on my ideological principles and Christian upbringing, which supports my faith in humankind as a historic factor and as evidence of God's infinite wisdom.

The situation in El Salvador now is different than it was years ago. We have made notable and satisfactory progress. El Salvador enjoys a freedom of expression and of the press that had never existed in our country. All political and social sectors have access to the media. Ideological pluralism is evident in the media. We have opened political opportunities so all political parties, regardless of their ideology, may peacefully and freely participate in elections.

The civilian population of El Salvador has seen the FMLN continuously attack their fundamental rights. Openly violating elemental norms of human coexistence, the FMLN has been carrying out terrorist attacks. An alarming number of peasant men, women, and children have been injured by mines. There are continuous attacks on and destruction of agricultural centers. Harvested products, sugar mills, and coffee warehouses are being set on fire and destroyed. Railroads, roads, bridges, industrial installations, electrical equipment, drinking water service facilities, and telephone lines are being destroyed. That is, everything having to do with the basic infrastructure needed by the people is being destroyed. In addition, many mayors are being kidnapped and murdered. Mayors are civilians who are elected by the people. Young people under 15 are being forcefully recruited, and buses and gasoline stations are being attacked.

Recently, the FMLN returned to the car bombing strategy and to other forms of aggression to attack commercial and recreation centers in urban areas of San Salvador. The FMLN has declared civilian residential areas war zones.

As standard bearers of the mandate received from the Salvadoran people, we have the huge responsibility of permanently working for peace. The Constitution is the framework of our firm position in favor of peace. Our political will in favor of peace has been demonstrated on many occasions. One such occasion was in October 1984 at the United Nations. It was also demonstrated at other meetings, inside and outside El Salvador.

I also wish to state that despite our political will toward a dialogue, the FMLN-FDR have only held tactical talks. All the FMLN-FDR seeks is a dialogue under the pressures of violence, using psychological intimidation, sabotage, and death as their instruments.

On many occasions, at various times, and in various places, I called on the rebels, and today, before this illustrious General Assembly, I reiterate my challenge to the FMLN to publicly declare they are abandoning violence as a method of struggle to achieve power and are joining the democratic process we have begun. If they do this, we will be willing to talk whenever possible. [applause]

The fact that the FDR has joined the Salvadoran electoral process is proof the government is willing to provide political openings and offer the immediate possibility of setting violence aside and replacing it with a peaceful political struggle. I know the FDR's attitude is in accord with our democratic ideals and is not another strategic maneuver aimed at destroying democracy. The democratic path has been opened, and we will not falter or tire as we fearlessly follow this path.

Gentlemen foreign ministers, delegates: Esquipulas II is a declaration and a commitment aimed at solving the serious Central American problems by the Central American people. The document signed in Guatemala expresses the sovereign decision of the area people to reject violence as a means of achieving power and summarizes the efforts to end war, defend freedom, and promote the development of integral democracy in Central America. This is why I call Esquipulas II our second declaration of independence.

I do not wish to give you a long report on how El Salvador has abided by the Esquipulas II plan, but for historical purposes, I must say we declared a total amnesty for political prisoners; we repatriated, and continue to repatriate, thousands of displaced Salvadorans who were living in Honduran camps—the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees has recognized my government's efforts in this field. We have also guaranteed total freedom of press and have provided political openings even for the FDR despite the fact it has not broken its alliance with the FMLN. The FDR, through several other political parties, has already registered to participate in the May 1989 presidential elections. The Salvadoran Legislative Assembly has also ratified the treaty for the creation of the Central American parliament.

I truly feel the upcoming Central American presidential summit could be very important if we adopt measures to strengthen this process. Therefore, I have asked the summit to be held, a specific agenda to be followed, and this agenda to be a feasible and positive one so we may achieve positive and specific agreements. With all due respect, I hereby request this assembly's moral support for the Central American summit. Not only is Central America's peace at stake but so is the continent's safety.

Looking toward the immediate future, I foresee constant efforts will be made to consolidate a pluralist and participatory democracy. The people's no to totalitarianism and violence grows stronger and louder each day. This clamor will lead us to definite peace along the only acceptable path: democracy within the framework of law.

Looking toward a more distant future, I can in my heart and mind see my homeland living in peace, harmony, prosperity, and in serene justice. When I speak of my homeland, I am not only speaking of this little piece of land I love very much and where my fellow countrymen live, work, and dream; I speak of Central America as a whole. I speak of a Central America that must face destiny united not only because of tradition and nationalism but because of the common ideals of our forefathers and the historic need that today demands we unite and confront our current challenges.

Gentlemen foreign ministers, gentlemen delegates: I am especially moved today because this is a great moment for the Salvadoran people. However, your presence among this suffering but hardworking and productive people will help achieve the wishes of the Salvadoran people, achieve peace, and move further away from violence. This will be done with our daily struggle for justice and democracy.

Destiny is testing El Salvador, Central America, and Latin America. It is testing us but also giving us hope. The star of freedom is shining on our peoples despite the clouds that overshadow us. With our eyes on that star—in other words, with our eyes on the power of God—I greet the beginning of the work of this illustrious assembly. I express the appreciation of the Salvadoran Government and people for granting us the honor of hosting your meeting. I wish to reiterate that, to the last day of my life, I will work for democracy, justice, and peace—the three most precious things man can hope for on this earth.

Upon declaring this 18th OAS General Assembly open, I call on the people of the continent so, based on the unchangeable principles of our coexistence—solidarity, mutual respect, international cooperation, supported by an authentic regional cooperation—we can achieve a future full of wishes come true for a people who aspire for justice, security, and freedom. I also ask God to enlighten all of us in our efforts to achieve what is best for our peoples. I know our peoples are very well represented in this assembly.

Gentlemen foreign ministers, gentlemen delegates: Welcome to El Salvador. [applause]

Secretary General Arrives

PA1411030188 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 4

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, upon his arrival in El Salvador yesterday, came out in favor of dialogue between the United States and Latin America.

The diplomat arrived from Miami after a 35-minute delay aboard a TACA commercial flight. He was greeted by Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, Mauricio Granillo Barrera, Salvadoran ambassador to the OAS, OAS officials, and the Brazilian ambassador to El Salvador.

After listening to the national anthems of El Salvador and Brazil and reviewing troops that paid tribute to him at the chief of state level, OAS Secretary General Baena Soares met with domestic and foreign reporters at the international airport.

In response to reporter's questions, he came out in favor of a dialogue between the United States and Latin America to find solutions to the economic and political problems plaguing us all.

He stated that the OAS will emerge strengthened from this meeting because it will resume the role that is appropriate for it.

Yesterday, OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares visited President Jose Napoleon Duarte at the presidential house to congratulate him for holding the 18th regular session of the organization and the fact that everything has turned out well thus far.

Today, Saturday, Dr Baena Soares will attend to OAS matters and on Sunday will attend an informal meeting of foreign ministers outside of San Salvador.

On Monday he will jointly chair with the president the opening of the OAS General Assembly, which brings together 32 foreign ministers. Tuesday he will chair the special event at the 13th International Fair of El Salvador commemorating OAS day.

Secretary General's Speech

PA1411180888 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1549 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Speech by OAS Secretary Joao Clemente Baena Soares at opening session of 18th OAS General Assembly in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Your excellencies, Salvadoran President and Foreign Minister; Foreign Ministers and chiefs of delegations; Messrs Deputies of the Legislative Assembly; members of the Supreme Court; members of the government cabinet; permanent observers; members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen:

The presence at this inaugural session of His Excellency Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte constitutes the highest expression of the generous hospitality with which the people and government of this noble country have received us. The personal valor and courage of President Duarte in the face of adversity are an inspiration for our work at the beginning of the 18th ordinary sessions of the OAS General Assembly this morning.

The very efficient efforts of Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta and the constant work of his aides at the Foreign Ministry have provided the best framework for the deliberations of the assembly. Because of this, I express to them our deepest gratitude.

We are again in Central America. I can testify to its desire for peace and its efforts to achieve understanding. This maintains our confidence in a future of reconciliation and prosperity.

El Salvador welcomes us today here in this fertile land of mountains, lakes, and volcanoes; in this active, industrious, and vital nation, which in 1811 carried out the early movement that was to culminate years later in the proclamation of Central America's independence. The founding fathers of El Salvador promoted the initial efforts of the United Provinces of Central America, trying to consolidate a representative government in the recently liberated region.

The Salvadoran people have been able to maintain this same spirit of freedom, democracy, and integration that has led us to our meeting here.

The General Assembly has as a backdrop a central topic, the solution to which is essential. It is a matter of deciding what the governments of the member states want to do with the OAS at this critical hour of the life of the Americas. How do they want the OAS to carry out its role and what means will it be given to do so? As long as this challenge is not answered, the resolutions that are adopted will have limited effectiveness in the immediate term and no future vitality.

The Cartagena de Indias protocol offers an appropriate and modern legal framework. All we need to do is give it its operative political contents to complement the process already under way. Making decisions regarding such important matters are the exclusive and sovereign right of member states. It is up to those who created, and today compose, the organization to agree on the path the organization will follow. I feel that in these times, it is necessary to want to make history if we want to avoid [3-second break in reception]. The determination to help maintain the OAS or the refusal to do so is the result of the political trust one may or may not have in the purpose of the organization and its ability to achieve its goals.

It is frequently said maintaining the OAS is very costly. It is also said the OAS is not being used to the fullest of its political and diplomatic capacity and that it is simply a bureaucratic organization. However, maintaining the OAS would not be so costly if it continues to abide by its principles and achieves its essential goals as established in the organization's charter. The world spends trillions of dollars each year on weapons for war. It would be much more reasonable to give those funds to organizations created for the promotion of peace, thus making them more efficient.

My term in office as OAS secretary general has also included several events that strengthen my faith in the future of the organization; above all, my faith in the future of our hemisphere. In November 1985, in Cartagena de Indias, the member states approved a protocol that amends the OAS Charter. To date, the protocol has been ratified by 18 nations. We expect the implementation of these amendments will become a reality in the near future. Once the protocol—which adds to the charter many important changes in accord with the Latin American laws—is implemented, the organization will have renewed its efficiency and relevance.

Amid the destruction of war, the spirit of peace remains alive. Important pages of Latin American history were written in Contadora, Esquipulas, Guatemala City, and Sapoa. These pages renew the hopes for dialogue and understanding. On repeated occasions, this General Assembly has expressed its strong support for these noble efforts of solidarity. The OAS has also supported the efforts made by its secretary general at the request of the parties involved to contribute to these negotiations to iron out differences and help reach an understanding. I wish to take this opportunity to express the hopes that the spirit of reconciliation that enlightened Esquipulas and Sapoa will continue to enlighten all those actions that will lead to peace through these means created by the Central American countries themselves.

The characteristically deep seated difficulties in the course of events in Latin American and the Caribbean highlight the relevance of the OAS as the natural forum to coordinate and unite the hemisphere, reestablish peace where it has been broken, preserve it where it is threatened, and consolidate it where it has been rescued; these are the fundamental ideals of the American nations, and they are this organization's essential goals.

The strengthening of peace requires a return to full recourse to the law. Harmony and brotherhood cannot exist where relations among people and states are not regulated by legal principles and doors are left open to arbitrary decisions. We must return to the law if we are to achieve lasting peace. We must also seek dialogue and open political interlocution, based upon respect for the points of view of others, a willingness to negotiate in good faith, and a spirit of agreement and conciliation. This is the only way to solve disputes and peacefully end controversies.

Over the past few years, a considerable number of economic structures built in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past decades have been undermined. The countries in the region have been forced onto a path of impoverishment since 1981. In 1988, according to the recent estimates of trustworthy sources, the region's global growth will be under 1 percent, and per capita production will decrease 1.5 percent. Poverty has increased; unemployment and part-time employment are affecting very large segments of the population; salaries have declined under the impact of inflation; the states' social expenses are declining because of lack of resources; the accumulation of capital, which is essential for productive expansion, is clearly insufficient. The lack of necessary means for individual and national survival is threatening social cohesion and democratic coexistence. Economic life is also subject to the rules of international law, and differences in the field are appropriate subjects for dialogue and conciliation.

The prevailing conditions in 1988 are subject to the OAS Charter's pure principles and basic mechanisms, which bind member states to the unification of efforts to achieve social justice in the hemisphere and to cooperate in helping their people achieve full development, which are essential conditions for peace and security.

It is unnecessary to insist on the devastating effect the servicing of the foreign debt under unfavorable conditions has had on growth and development.

The debtor countries of the region assign a considerable portion of the work of their peoples to the payment of interest—in the context of declining values of their exports, of negative capital flow, and persistently high levels of interest rates.

The measures so far adopted to deal with the crisis—most of which have been of a conventional nature—have been clearly insufficient to solve the crisis. The adjustment programs undertaken by many countries have worsened the insufficiency of the demand that already existed before their implementation and have increased the tendency of collective impoverishment.

A succession of contacts between each country and its debtors and official bankers between September 1982 and September 1987 led 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries to renegotiate their foreign debts on 64 different occasions in a constant atmosphere of imminent crisis.

The subject of foreign debt is, in my judgment, framed in the spirit of Article 35 of the charter, according to which, I quote: The member states agree to collectively find a solution to the urgent or grave problems that could arise when development or economic stability of any member state is seriously affected by situations that cannot be solved by the efforts of said state—end quote.

Many other matters of importance for the member states are being considered and acted upon by the OAS. In some of these, such as inter-American commercial relations, mechanisms and instruments already exist that, when adequately used, are useful for dialogue, consultation, and negotiations.

In others, such as the defense, promotion, and respect for human rights, there is a tradition of important achievements. In certain cases, such as the control of consumption, production, and illegal traffic of narcotics, activity is being initiated with wide ranging prospects, in spite of severe limitation of resources.

On 30 April 1988, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of the OAS. We are approaching 14 April 1990, the date on which the inter-American system will be 100-years-old. Such anniversaries are occasional quiet periods [remansos] of history. More than to celebrate the facts of the past, they should serve to face up to the present and to correct the course in the future.

The OAS member states are facing circumstances that must be modified to take the path to peace or development. The isolated national efforts, although essential, will not be sufficient. It is necessary to awaken a new spirit of understanding, communication, and support that will transform the natural interaction of the states of this hemisphere into solidarity for harmonic coexistence, secure existence, and productive cooperation. We must create a new reality in our hemisphere, from which will emerge an inter-American dialogue framed in the complete respect for the legal principles that the member states have freely agreed to.

For this dialogue to be fruitful, it will have to be based on trust and understanding. It should not leave out a single subject of interest for the nations of the hemisphere. It will be rooted in mutual knowledge and respect for the interests and stances of others, and on the acceptance of their autonomy and self-determination.

This new reality will encounter in the OAS an effective political forum for dialogue between North and South America. The OAS represents a way of solution that does not have to be created; all we have to do is use it. The organization should not be a mechanism for scattered, isolated actions, but a means to harmonize and organize concepts and ideas leading to strategies and an outline for action. The OAS makes it possible for a political dialogue whose fruits will come forth from law and not from force. It makes it possible for social justice to prevail and for human beings to become more important than numbers. The OAS makes it possible for a historic debate in which collective decisions have the force of law above individual interest. Consultation will become more important than unilateral decisions. In this dialogue, reason will be worth more than power.

The new reality we can construct, the destiny of America we have a glimpse of, our ideals, and our common purpose to work for them demand a clear, immediate reply to the fundamental question on which the existence of the organization now depends. Let us move forward firmly, united in the purpose to consolidate, within this hemisphere and the framework of democratic institutions, a regime of individual freedom and social justice, based on respect for man's rights.

Thank you. [applause]

Civic Crusade Attends

PA15110-5188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text]Democratic political parties and the Civic Crusade have reported on the human rights and political situation in Panama at the OAS General Assembly, which is taking place this week in San Salvador.

Aurelio Barria, spokesman for the Panamanian politicians, told ACAN-EFE that the OAS will be briefed on the real political situation in Panama, especially with regards to human rights, which are being violated by the current authorities.

Cerezo Says Summit 'Urgent,"Necessary'

PA1511033988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2151 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo stated today that the Central American presidential summit scheduled for 25 and 26 November in El Salvador "can be rescued," although the foreign ministers of other countries dismissed the possibility that it can be held on those dates.

"President Cerezo is fully convinced that the meeting of area presidents is urgent and necessary and can be postponed, but not called off," presidential spokesman Julio Santos told ACAN-EFE.

According to Santos, after learning that the Central American foreign ministers meeting in El Salvador during the OAS General Assembly meeting had not agreed upon an agenda for the presidential summit, Cerezo is now trying to "seek an agreement among his colleagues."

After an informal meeting with his Central American colleagues, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo said yesterday "that it (the summit) cannot be held on that date because we are running short of time."

Santos said Cerezo agrees with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias that there is an "impasse" in the "Esquipulas II" peace agreement, which was signed by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala.

Arias admitted in the Costa Rican capital on Sunday that the Central American governments have gone back on the fulfillment of the peace plan returning us "to the point where we found ourselves" before "Esquipulas II" was signed.

The Guatemalan presidential spokesman said Cerezo has reiterated that the failure to fulfill the peace commitments "is due to a lack of political will" of some countries, but he did not specify which countries.

According to Santos, Cerezo will insist that the "summit" be held as soon as possible in El Salvador to continue discussing "Esquipulas II," for which he is seeking a consensus among his Central American colleagues.

Group of Eight Blames U.S. for OAS Crisis

PA1511025588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2026 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (ACAN - EFE)—The Group of Eight blames the United States for deteriorating inter-American relations and the OAS crisis, according to a document drafted by the ambassadors accredited to the organization, which was examined at the recent Uruguayan presidential summit.

The document, to which ACAN-EFE had access, stresses as "causes of discredit" to the OAS the fact that the United States "used" it in the past to "legitimize unilateral actions" and has recently "systematically disregarded basic rules of inter-American law."

According to the Group of Eight document, the United States has not offered "effective cooperation in favor of development, as agreed in 1948."

"The fact that the OAS is no longer a viable instrument for U.S. hegemonic policies and does not respond to its strategic concerns, has caused a growing U.S. disinterest in the organization," the document states.

In the opinion of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, good evidence of that "disinterest" is that it has not paid its dues "to the point where the OAS no longer has the necessary resources to survive," and that the United States "uses" the financial crisis "as a pressure tool."

The document, which according to German Nava Carrillo, serves as a guide for the group's discussions on the future of the OAS during the OAS General Assembly meeting in San Salvador, states that "today, certainly, the right conditions do not exist to continue modernizing the basic OAS instruments."

But, it adds, new political initiatives can be achieved to strengthen the regional organization as a political and juridical forum."

The Group of Eight requests "a new concept of security, political solidarity, and cooperation among the American states, as a strategy for peace, democracy, and development."

"Such strategy requires: respect for international law and recognition of the new capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to show initiative and reach agreements, as well as their renewed spirit of integration, which does not seek, the document notes, to replace the OAS as a forum for necessary hemispheric dialogue."

The document explains that "efforts should be made at the hemispheric level, through consultation and agreement, to reconcile legitimate security concerns of the continent's great power with the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean."

This will be achieved through a new political commitment by all to formulate an "updated agenda" of the continent's problems to promote dialogue and cooperation between the industrialized countries (the United States) and the developing nations.

Among the possible topics on that agenda, the group includes a new agreement on its headquarters, human rights, control of drug abuse, development of Inter-American law, foreign debt, trade, and technical cooperation.

Regarding the foreign debt, termed "the greatest threat to the security, democratic stability, and development of our countries," the dialogue would recognize the role of Latin American mechanisms for reaching agreement and of other international organizations, whether or not of a financial nature.

All of this would operate "without affecting the negotiating strategy each debtor country decides to adopt with respect to the peculiar characteristics of its foreign debt."

The document of the Group of the Eight also recommends "the urgent adoption" of a number of short term measures: "payment of dues and strict rationalization of spending through a rigorous assessment of the programs and activities, permitting a reduction in bureaucracy."

The document also calls for the allocation of scarce resources to multinational projects, for which foreign financing should be sought, and deems "indispensable" a reorganization of the administrative board.

In its recommendations to the presidents, the document maintains "The reentry of Cuba and entry of Canada to the OAS would give the organization its true hemispheric dimension, reaffirming the principle of universality.

Cuba

Castro on Efforts in Construction Industry

FL1411201788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1248 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited the (Obra Pia) house in Havana last night. Here, the main architects of capitals of socialist countries received the golden insignia which designates them as illustrious guests of Havana. Speaking to the press, the top leader of the Cuban revolution, gave his impressions on the development of the construction materials industry.

[Begin recording] [Castro] An enormous effort is being made in the construction materials industry. A tremendous effort is being made. It should improve the situation.

[Unidentified reporter] We have seen in a recent visit we made to Arryo Naranjo that Cuban technology is being applied....

[Castro, interrupting] The Guasimas industry?

[Reporter] Yes, Las Guasimas. The tile factory and the two others that are being built.

[Castro] I visited them several weeks ago. Construction is at an advanced stage there. The technology being used at the tile factory is ours. There is another one, a block factory with equipment imported from Spain. There is a white cement factory. So, there they have tiles, blocks, and white cement.

[Reporter] We saw at La Guasimas the workers' enthusiasm to complete by the end of the year the two factories under construction. We noticed they have a tremendous will to complete these factories which are so badly needed for the development of the capital. What is your opinion on the materials industry situation which, as we reported in the news, is becoming a reality?

[Castro] Well, when there was talk about reorganizing minibrigades in 1986, the Micons [Construction Ministry] was asked—the old Micons because there are two Micons, the old and the new one—that they study all the needs and speed up the materials production. The old Micons were incapable of fulfilling this. Last year, approximately in the middle of last year, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry was created. There was a time in which these were two different activities. The construction materials industry was left as the car's fifth wheel. It didn't get the attention it should have received for years. In addition, some of the [words indistinct] plants were assembling had been in boxes for 10 years. Since they did not produce enough they had material left. There is not enough material because a construction explosion has taken place.

[Reporter] Of course, there was no demand.

[Castro] There is a tremendous demand which is pressuring terribly the construction materials industry. So, the ministry was created during the middle of last year. It was given the mission of boosting all construction material projects. It was asked to present a program. The program was analyzed and it was approved. The program is being fulfilled. Resources were assigned despite insufficient resources to do so. Many of these projects are being worked on. They have not developed fully. Some things take longer. I believe that the recovery of cement, although it has increased some 400,000 or 500,000 tons, is still not enough.

As you see, it was decided only 15 months ago to build a Cuban rolling mill, a steel rolling mill to produce iron rods. That rolling mill is being completed in Las Tunas. A great effort has been made in the field of steel in the old Antillana [de Acero] by expanding it, in the new expansion project of Antilla. All this is going to double our steel resources for construction. Enormous efforts are being made.

New carpentry shops have been built. Work has been done in aluminum carpentry shops [as heard]. New equipment has been purchased to produce aluminum shuttering. There are dozens of industries in which work is being done. But there is a problem when any of them fails. If we don't take care of the construction steel industry [words indistinct] You can have everything else and lack cement. We have problems if there are little delays with gravel and sand. All this can be solved. You can have problems with wood if wood imports are delayed. If they arrive late in the country—we have also had these problems this year.

As you know we are promoting wood purchasing from Siberia. A few hundred Cubans are working there. But that does not yield results right away. We still depend on imported wood a lot. We have to save more wood. We have to replace wood shuttering with metal in construction. We have also made analyses on how much steel we need to produce. Because while wood is used four or five times or three times in a wood shuttering, metal could be used 120, 140, or 150 times. So, we are looking for ways in which wood can be saved. This is not a simple thing. It is complex. A construction explosion has really taken place. Now it is the time that these industries respond. They are being given resources. They are being boosted but this has not worked out completely. At least it has not happened in 1988. The situation should be better in 1989, much better.

[Reporter] However, commander, we can see now that in November construction materials production is larger compared to last year.

[Castro] Yes, there is more but there is not enough.

[Reporter] Of course, there is not enough. But this shows the effort made to guarantee....

[Castro, interrupting] An effort has been made but we should not be happy with the efforts we have made. I believe that in November of next year it should be much better than now and much better in November 1990. To give you an idea, the block production capacity in Havana was 12 million blocks. Investments are being made to reach 60 million blocks. This same thing is being done with bricks, flat roof tiles, tiles, mosaics, everything. You can finish the cement block factory and if the cement factory is not completed, you are left without cement blocks. If you lack sand, [word indistinct], and gravel, you are left without materials to make cement. This is why you have to watch everything.

We gave instructions to the Construction Materials Industry minister to oversee everything, including things it does not produce. There are things the ministry does not produce. The mechanical industry produces some things. The light industry produces others. So the ministry has to oversee everything, everything that has to do with materials.

For example, the mechanical industry produces electric cables. Machines have been purchased and the production capacity of electric cables has increased. We have given the mechanical industry the task of boosting at any cost everything that is related to construction materials, especially [word indistinct]. Many of these things are of less value, but many times slows construction projects. The mechanical industry has been given the task of boosting all electric component production. New machines have been used to produce electric cable. Investments are being made in plastic to replace many steel pipes for plastic ones. Cast iron production is being increased. Hundreds of things are needed in construction. You have problems if you lack pipes, pipe elbows, connections. This is a serious problem. The amount of construction materials needed is great. We have to work on all of them. If you lack one of them you are left in a bind or spend a lot of money. We want to develop everything.

I see that you are very well informed. Where do you work?

[Reporter] Well, I work with the television newscast and I deal with the construction sector.

[Castro] With the construction sector alone? I see you know quite a bit. I don't even dare talk to you because [words indistinct] with being an engineer. [end recording]

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro [words indistinct]. Fidel also talked with the 10 main architects of the capitals of socialist countries on the problems of architectural renovation in the city.

Radio Comments on Bush Victory, Effects in C.A.

PA1411142288 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Nov 88

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] It is not unwise to suppose that Central America is among the priority issues of the new [words indistinct] who after the electoral euphoria is getting ready to implement his political strategy, which according to some political analysts, will not differ very much from the previous one.

Most Latin American political sectors are currently saying that because the U.S. Republican Party continues holding power in the United States, things will remain the same or even get worse for nations such as Nicaragua, which have suffered the ferocious harassment of the Reagan administration during all these years.

New figures do not usually mean new ideas. That is why President-elect George Bush tried to be cautious when answering questions by reporters concerning the military aid package for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. However, he stressed that support for the Nicaraguan rebels will be a priority issue for his government because freedom and democracy in the hemisphere are also priority issues.

Some counterrevolutionary leaders are already rejoicing in view of the possibility of the continuation of the aid, with which they have maintained their own businesses under the pretext of their struggle to free Nicaragua.

Former Colonel Enrique Bermudez said that although the Democrats continue to control the U.S. Congress, he hopes now the opponents to the aid for the Nicaraguan irregular forces will be significantly reduced at Congress.

The new U.S. President must also consider that. The U.S. Congress is again in the hands of the Democrats, and we should wonder whether that majority would be willing to continue a clearly mistaken policy that has only borne failures throughout these years.

Undoubtedly, amid all speculations concerning this issue, there is an aspect no one has mentioned: the peace plan signed by the Central American presidents, which demands the end of all support for irregular forces and a political solution to the conflict.

We firmly believe that is the most important aspect of the difficult Central American issue: the will of the peoples to build their future and develop [words indistinct]. That is something the new U.S. President must also keep in mind.

Quadripartite Talks Reportedly Extended

Agenda Kept Secret

FL1511131588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Contacts have continued at the negotiations on southwest Africa in Geneva. Several cables reported that the Angolan and Cuban delegations met with South African representatives for 45 minutes but no details have been revealed up to now. Various specialists noted that this 9th round of talks could end early this morning or during the course of the day. As it is known, the

agenda is secret. Another round of negotiations is expected to be scheduled for Brazzaville, capital of the People's Republic of the Congo.

No Confirmation of End Date

FL1411140488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The [ninth] round of quadripartite negotiations on southwest Africa has been extended through at least today, according to conference sources in Geneva.

A plenary meeting between the Angolan-Cuban delegation and the South African delegation with the mediation of the United States is planned for today. According to reports, the matters discussed are complex, but they continue to be worked on.

Up to now, the meeting has been held through bilateral contacts. U.S. representatives have met with the delegations individually.

The ninth round of talks began last Friday. The sources who were consulted have not confirmed the talks will end today.

Extension Said Hopeful

FL1411164488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Commentary by Fernando Delgado Ortega]

[Text] The ninth round of quadripartite negotiations in Geneva aimed at reaching a solution to the southwest Africa conflict, with the participation of Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States, will continue in a plenary session until today. Reports indicated that bilateral contacts held between Friday and Sunday did not result in insurmountable uncompromising attitudes although there have been no promising signs regarding the two main points; the withdrawal of the South African occupation troops from Namibian territory and southern Angola and the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces from Angola.

The fact that the talks were extended until today and that they were going to be held in plenary session indicates that a possible solution may be found.

Reports from Geneva on the negotiations say that there is a great interest to work among the parties. The meetings, which followed South Africa's crushing defeat in the Angolan territory of Cuito Cuanavale, were first held in the British capital last May. In the 6 months that have gone by, delegations from Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States have sustained intense exchanges of formulas and views to bring peace to southwest Africa once independence is granted to Namibia. This point, which we may describe as basic for solving the conflict, has held up the dialogue up to now.

Without being overly optimistic, the development of the quadripartite talks is headed toward reaching the needed agreement on a formula to take it from dialogue to action. This forecast is founded basically on the unpostponable decision of the international community of granting independence to Namibia. South Africa cannot continue with the occupation. The international rejection it is being subjected to and the resistance of the peoples led by its armed organization, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], represents a political burden. South Africa has no other way out than to yield to international pressure and the heroism of Namibians and Angolans in the defense of their fatherland.

South Africans To Leave

FL1411193088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1749 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 14 Nov (NOTIMEX)—South Africa refused today to make any arrangements with the Cubans during the current round of quadripartite talks that the United States and Namibia [as received] are holding in this capital and announced that its delegation will leave this afternoon, according to its spokesman Roland Darroll.

After 4 days of separate consultations, observers did not exclude the possibility of a new joint meeting later to set up the date for a new round of talks.

Chester Crocker, U.S. mediator, and assistant under secretary for African Affairs at the U.S. State Department, had said hours earlier that they had never been so close to reaching an agreement.

The new round of talks on the withdrawal of Cuban troops (estimated in 52,000 soldiers) from Angola in exchange for Namibia's independence from South Africa, entered into an unscheduled 4th day of individual meetings.

Neil Van Heerden, head of the South African delegation, met for 1-hour with Crocker this morning. Later, an official said they had discussed a 31-month timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola proposed by the Americans.

For his part, General Antonio dos Santos Franca, head of the Angolan delegation, said this morning: We have obtained little since we arrived here on Thursday and we need more.

Franca asserted that all the parties have made concessions in every area since they meet in New York in October.

A South African source agreed with the head of the Angolan delegation but added that the concessions were petty, cold, and small.

It was reported in Lisbon that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA, supported by Washington and Pretoria] announced today it killed three Cuban and 17 Angolan soldiers.

Through a communique issued in Angola, the UNITA said it killed 17 government soldiers last Thurdsay during the occupation of Cuimba, located in the Zaire (north) Province, and the three Cuban soldiers were killed by a commando in the City of Bie (center).

* Statistics, Reasons for 1988 Traffic Accidents

32480034 [Editorial Report] The 6 October 1988 issue of the Havana Spanish-language paper GRANMA reported on page 2 that traffic deaths rose almost 14 percent during the first 8 months of 1988 over the same period in 1987, to a total of 1,103. According to Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Hernandez Blain, head of the Traffic Safety Department of the General Office of the PNR [National Revolutionary Police], the number of deaths per 100 accidents rose from eight in 1987 to nine thus far in 1988. The provinces with the most accidents are City of Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, and Matanzas. Common driving violations include excessive speed, lack of vehicle control, drinking and driving, and not respecting the right of way. Carelessness on the part of pedestrians was also cited. Twenty-seven percent of the number of deaths reported this period were pedestrians, of whom 60 percent were either over the age of 50 or under the age of 15. Other factors contributing to the large number of accidents include citizens hanging out of bus doors and windows, buses traveling with the doors open, drivers' disregard for pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks, and jaywalking.

* Recreational Activities for Youth Discussed

32480024 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish
9 Sep 88 pp 21-24

[Article by Lisanka]

[Excerpt] Because we are an archipelago with more than 5,000 km of coastlines, our population's main form of recreation is going to the beach. Camping, on the other hand, is gradually making inroads in this tradition; youths, in particular, go camping every summer. This trend has been influenced not only by improved camping facilities, but also by the fact that it is perhaps the most accessible recreation for tourists in the population.

Nonetheless, in July and August people flock to the coasts, the beaches, the swimming pools in Lenin Park, and the social circles. They spill over the edges of the beaches at the Triton Hotel, the Playita de 60, and the areas of 8th, 16th, and 24th Streets in Miramar, not to mention the beaches to the east and west of the capital.

It appears that there is no more attractive place. Youths from municipalities that have no beaches even travel long distances to fish or to take a dip. Some people think this is due to a lack of recreational alternatives, others say it is because not everyone knows about existing opportunities.

But in the final analysis, are the material conditions right for us to stop regarding the sea as the best place for recreation?

With this question in mind, I tried to survey a representative segment of the population, including youths, workers, grandparents, and cultural officials. The results can be seen here: Most young people are satisfied with the beach or dances (not frequent enough), while working mothers are looking for safe entertainment for their children.

The problem lies in the fact that while the options are available in most cases, people don't know about them, they are not used to full advantage, or their image does not correspond to the population's interests. In some cases the hours of operation and the general lack of initiative are hindrances. I think there is a lot of the latter, but basically it depends on one's point of view.

Long Way to the Beach

"In my town there is no place to have fun."

"What town is that? How can that be? Aren't you exaggerating?"

"The video parlor is shut down for lack of air conditioning, and besides, it doesn't open until after 1700 hours. And the closest reservoir is still dry, despite the rain showers. That's why I have come so far."

It's incredible that Damian Gonzalez, a student at the Lenin School, journeys from Santiago de las Vegas to Havana del Este just to go fishing. But it's also incredible that a 17-year-old youth can't find any recreational opportunities closer to home. At any rate, his favorite pastime is fishing, and the coast is quite far away.

Nevertheless, 2 days later I went to Santiago to confirm what he told me about the video parlor. I was unable to do so in the end, but I went by there anyway to see what movie they were showing. I must confess that I was a bit disconcerted to find a blank board outside. An employee of a nearby center told me that there had been a sign up in the morning, but it must have fallen off. I wonder how many young people passed by the place and were as uninformed as I.

To the Countryside, Kids!

Pura Orozco, who works at the City Museum, thinks that children in general have few places to go for amusement, at least 13-year-olds like hers.

"We should build more amusement parks or places where they can go and be safe. Here in Old Havana there aren't very many places for them to play safely. Sometimes TV programs don't entertain them, and at that age it is very difficult to keep them at home. They can't go to

the beach every day. That's why I sent my boy to visit relatives in Santa Clara, because otherwise I wouldn't be able to keep my mind on my work and he wouldn't be able to have a good time."

Just More Dances

For Iraida Sosa and Olga Lourdes Ventura, students, this has been a good summer and they have enjoyed it just fine. The sun, the sea, and the breakwater are good enough for them in the mornings.

Their main pastime: the beaches, as it is for most capital youths. And there are plenty of beaches in the east and west as well.

They wish the dances were more frequent, of course, not just at carnival time. Other than that, everything is cool, as their smiles indicate.

Healthy Amusement?

It never would have occurred to me that someone might think of fishing in that pestilent place, much less come all the way from Santiago de las Vegas or Wajay to do it. But I had no choice but to accept after talking to Alejandro Rodriguez, Damian Gonzalez and Jose Ramon Perodin.

They were fishing at none other than the former El Chivo Beach, where the sewers of the capital empty.

Alejandro is the one who lives closest, about 20 minutes away on the bus, though he spends his vacations with his grandmother in downtown Havana. But he doesn't know of very many recreational places in Arroyo Naranjo, where he lives. He thinks Lenin Park is too far away, many of the theaters are shut down, and there are few dances.

In fact, even if there were enough recreational alternatives, I think Alejandro would come to the beach to fish anyway. He feels a great attraction for it. That's why I merely ask him if the fish he catches in these waters can be eaten.

House of Culture, One Option

Most of the young people in Arroyo Naranjo head for Maria Auxiliadora and 10 de Octubre Streets at night, as if they were going to a kind of La Rampa in miniature (to be sure, without the latter's color and possibilities!). In what amounts to the heart of this territory is the House of Culture.

Although the municipality has the other basic cultural institutions as well, most of the recreational opportunities seem to be at the House of Culture, especially on Saturday and Sunday nights when dances are put on with live groups or recorded music.

In the afternoon, however, attendance is not as heavy, despite the fact that in the summer activities have been organized with circus artists, more films have been shown, and literary circles and other gatherings have been held. The problem, according to several officials of this institution, is the lack of promotion.

There we found young people from Arroyo Naranjo who complained about the lack of recreation in the territory, and who are unaware of what is available at the House of Culture, aside from the art galleries, museums, Lenin Park, and the municipality's sports and cultural groups. But all that is not enough. Suffice it to say that of six movie theaters, only three are operating. As for the aforementioned groups, well, that's another story. At the very least, the idea of expanding the hours during vacations should be considered, because they open only after 1700 hours, just like the four video parlors.

The House of Culture, for its part, has been looking into new ideas for the summer, such as the establishment of clubs where the kids can bring their bicycles and skates and compete. A good idea that just needs to be put into practice.

All in all, I think the recreational alternatives in that municipality and many others in the capital fall short of young people's aspirations, especially in July and August, when they are desperately looking for activities to expend their energies on.

Beer and Dominoes: Favorite Pastimes

"There's no movie theater in this town; there should at least be one of those."

This is the opinion of Felix Jesus Osorio, a resident of Wajay. He says many of his neighbors feel the same way.

"That's why the kids have to go to the capital, because here we just have the club for us and the people who live in the Abel Santamaria district."

The place really wasn't very attractive. A color TV, a 40-seat video parlor (closed until 1700 hours), a Ping-Pong table, dominoes, and the obligatory keg of beer.

"That's our main pastime, coming here to drink beer and play dominoes, but not all young people like to do that for fun."

Grenada

Former Opposition Leader Joins Ruling Party

FL1511004388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2124 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 13, CANA—Former executive member of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) Lennox Jerome has joined the ruling New National Party (NNP) of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, a party source said.

Jerome who resigned from the GULP, which is headed by former Prime Minister Eric Gairy, told CANA that he joined the ranks of the NNP about three weeks ago. The small businessman was among delegates seen attending Sunday's NNP General Council meeting being held just outside the capital.

Before quitting the GULP five months ago, Jerome, who acted as the party's general-secretary, was being promoted as its candidate for the rural St Patricks West Constituency. He declined to comment on whether he would seek to become the NNP candidate for the constituency now held by another businessman Kenny Lalsing of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Although elections are not constitutionally due here before March 1990 most of the parties are preparing their machinery.

Government Plans To Improve Radio Station

FL1511015388 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 13, CANA—Chairman of a Grenada Government ministerial team on broadcasting, Education Minister George Mcguire says the present administration will not privatize state-owned Radio Grenada.

Mcguire said the government was not interested in turning the station into a "money-making machine" and would refrain from commercializing it. He told CANA that the ministerial team was in the process of looking at ways to improve the station in order to ensure that it became a more effective tool to keep the nation informed.

He said that the team had appointed a 3-member committee to come up with recommendations to strengthen the operation of Radio Grenada.

"We just want to strengthen the operational mode of the radio station and at the same time improve on the revenue collection, revenue potential," he remarked.

Mcguire said the restructuring plans for the station were intended to give greater exposure to local culture, and provide the nation with "more variety of programs and to enliven the whole situation there."

He also spoke of plans to try and motivate the stations already lowly-paid employees, by trying to provide them with greater security on the job. Mcguire suggested that once government was able to keep the top broadcasters at the station then the island could stay ahead of the rest of the Caribbean in broadcasting. "We always have had gifted people who tend to go. They tend to go and we want to keep them," he said.

When asked about reports indicating that part of government's plan to restructure the station included sending home five employees Mcguire replied: "I dont know anything about that."

The Grenada minister also touched on current talks being held with the U.S. non-profit organisation, Discovery, aimed at increasing the present television coverage to the entire island.

Mcguire said that the corporations owner, David Mccourt, would be invited to the country soon, to complete an agreement on the future of the television station. "In my last conversation with him, he did say that he has already purchased the equipment for the expansion of the services," he added.

Mcguire said that based on a development plan prepared by government there was a possibility that television could earn up to EC27 million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) over the next 5 years.

Haiti

Minister Issues Communique on Draft Decree

FL1411212588 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Communique issued by Minister of Information and Coordination Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre; date not given]

[Text] Within the framework of the dialogue initiated by the government with a view to seeking a consensus on important matters of national interests, the Ministry of Information wishes to dissipate, for everyone concerned, certain misunderstandings that might arise or that might be artificially created regarding the distribution of the draft decree creating the Cedah, or Electoral College of Haiti.

As the cover letter signed by the president of the Republic says, and as the title of the text shows, this is a draft decree, and not a promulgation. The purpose of distributing this document to the main political sectors and publishing it in the press and eliciting opinions, suggestions, and or constructive criticism is, precisely, to avoid the unnecessary development of conflict situations harmful to the progression of the democratic process.

The Haitian Government thanks all those who, taking advantage of the spirit of overture of these expanded consultations, have sent their remarks and proposals with a view to improving this draft decree. The Haitian Government invites those who have not yet pronounced themselves on the draft decree—or who misunderstood the meaning of the gesture—to break away from any attitude of fixation on the past [blocage sur le passe] so that they may make their patriotic contribution to this consultation in preparation for the setting in place of effective and reliable electoral proceedings.

The Haitian Government assures political parties and socioprofessional organizations that they will soon receive information regarding the modalities for pooling the ideas expressed and for direct discussions, with a view to finalizing the text. This consultation initiative is (?right in keeping with) the ideal of participation in the democratic process expressed by the Haitian people.

[Signed] Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre, minister of information and coordination

Radio Reports on Avril Relative's Death

FL1411144988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The body of 33-year-old Louis-Marie Bonnet, an immigration service inspector at Mais Gate airport, was discovered yesterday morning on Rue Salnave, (?off) Delmas 29. He had been shot, and his body was found inside his car.

Bonnet, who has been working at the Airport Immigration Service since 1976, is the brother-in-law of Mrs Prosper Avril.

It is reported that he left work around 2100. He was found inside his vehicle yesterday morning still wearing his uniform. There were several bullet holes in his body, and the back windshield of his vehicle had been shattered by a bullet. His throat had also been slit. We will listen to statements by a member of his family.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] (?I'm) his brother-in law. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What time does he usually get off work?

[Speaker] That depends on when the plane arrives.

[Reporter] So you don't know exactly what time he left the airport?

[Speaker] (?A) plane (?comes in) at 2200. It has to have been between 2200 and 0200.

[Second Reporter] Some of the people on the scene told us that he is married to Mrs Prosper Avril's sister. Is that true?

[Speaker] Yes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We point out that gunfire was heard in Port-au-Prince that night, and the shooting went on into the wee hours of the morning.

PUCH's Theodore Calls for Coalition Government

FL1411182088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] The secretary general of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], Mr Rene Theodore, said yesterday, Friday, that the form of government the military government represents is criticized very often. Haitians speak very badly of it.

Theodore called for the formation of a committee of public salvation [komite sali piblik] or a coalition government—a government made up of different sectors.

In a letter addressed to chief of state General Prosper Avril, a copy of which he also distributed to the press, Mr Theodore says he feels that the current form of government is outdated because it cannot give the nation what the nation has been waiting for since 7 February 1986. Theodore says that he thinks that a committee of public salvation or a coalition government with popular support will be able to undertake, with the authority that it will have because of the way it will have been formed, the urgent changes society is waiting for.

The PUCH was the first party to express its satisfaction following the coup d'etat against General Namphy effected by Army sergeants and enlisted men last 17 September that brought Gen Avril to power.

De la Madrid Assesses National Development Plan
PA1411141688 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 2

[Summary] According to a report on the national development plan implemented during the last 6 years, which was presented by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to the Mexican legislative branch, the Mexican economy has been strengthened during the last 6 years.

The report says the inflation rate was reduced to 0.6 percent by September 1988. The report adds that between 1983-87, the agrarian Gross National Product grew at an average rate of 1.2 percent and the production of basic grains increased at a 1.9-percent annual rate between 1982-87.

The report also says that in the last 6 years, the government delivered 1.3 million land ownership titles and certificates.

Regarding the industrial sector, the report says oil exports currently represent only 33 percent of the total Mexican export activity, while the export of manufactured goods increased from 14 percent in 1982 to almost 70 percent in 1988.

Salinas Assesses Tour of Guatemala, Belize
PA1411124488 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The Latin American countries must establish programs more closely economically connected than integration projects that result in great frustrations when they are not carried out. This was stated by President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari, commenting on the results of his goodwill tour of Guatemala and Belize. He said one of the relevant aspects of his visit to Guatemala was the people's warmth and heartfelt friendship. Regarding his visit to Belize, he said efforts must be made in the future to obtain closer economic cooperation, particularly concerning trade and tourism. Salinas de Gortari returned to Mexico City at 1600.

Banamex Reports Currency Reserves, Revenues
PA1311212988 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Nov 88 pp 1, 26

[Report by Jesus Rivera Valero]

[Summary] The National Bank of Mexico [Banamex] revealed in its October report that with $11 billion in foreign currency reserves, $9.723 billion in nonoil exports, a domestic gross product surplus of 8 percent compared to 3 percent in 1986, and inflation of less than 1 percent per month, the country will be able to face 1989 without great risk even with decreased oil exports.

Banamex said this will not allow Mexico to stop worrying about the decrease in oil income. "On the contrary, we must promote the isolation of this and other variables beyond our control. The reorganization of the foreign debt is the key to attaining foreign currency and reestablishing growth," Banamex said.

Declining Foreign Exchange Reserves Explained
PA1111192588 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Nov 88 pp 1, 14

[Article by Juan Antonio Zuniga]

[Text] Bank of Mexico [BANXICO] reports indicate that the federal government allocated over $4 billion of the country's foreign exchange reserves to stabilize the exchange rate between the peso and the dollar from April to October of this year. However, Mexican foreign exchange reserves are still at extremely high levels compared to their levels during the last year of the two previous administrations. Nevertheless, Mexican foreign exchange reserves are likely to decline further since imports have exceeded exports lately due to the virtual losses that have resulted from the underdevaluation of the peso relative to the dollar.

In April of this year, the country's total foreign exchange reserves amounted to approximately $16 billion. In July, BANXICO Director Miguel Mencera Aguayo reported that the reserves were $11.763 billion that month, while on 31 August they were $12.55 billion. Unofficially, some private business organizations and the Mexican Institute of Financial Executives [Institute Mexicano de Ejecutivos de Finanzas] currently estimate the reserves to be about $9.5 billion. The foreign exchange has been used to maintain parity with the dollar within the framework of the Economic Solidarity Pact. Consequently, the demand for foreign exchange has exceeded its supply in recent months as a result of the deterioration of the country's balance of trade. Interest payments on the foreign debt and increased demand from businesses and private citizens have slowly but consistently reduced the reserves.

In the face of monthly trade deficits, which resumed between July and August, balance of payments deficits, which resumed in May, and a commitment to make $2 billion in quarterly interest payments on the foreign debt, the foreign reserves have become the only available source for meeting the foreign exchange demand.

As a result of declining foreign exchange reserves between April and October, current foreign exchange levels are equivalent to those recorded during the 1982-83 period after loans were signed with the IMF to stabilize the balance of payments and also after a currency accrual policy was begun. This policy caused the greatest GNP decline in the past 50 years.

Mexico's commercial and financial relations with other countries declined considerably in the 2d quarter of this year. This resulted in part from the reduced value of the U.S. dollar, due in part to the exchange rate stabilization program.

According to BANXICO, the balance of payments, which includes the current commercial balance, showed a deficit of $333.7 million between April and June. In addition, the capital account—composed of available foreign credit, amortization payments, and foreign investment—showed a deficit of $1.19 billion in the 2d quarter.

These factors and the fact that $1.0188 billion in Mexican assets left the country between January and April resulted in a decrease of $1.6381 billion in foreign exchange reserves during the 2d quarter of 1988 alone.

1988 Cumulative Inflation Rate 46.6 Percent

PA1111042588 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Report by Yasmin Vanegas]

[Summary] The Bank of Mexico has reported that Mexico's inflation rate in October was 0.8 percent, slightly higher than that in September. The report indicates there were net reductions in the prices of 157 products.

The Bank of Mexico report indicates the cumulative inflation rate for the 1st 10 months of the year was 46.6 percent.

Reporters Complain Over Attacks During Elections

FL1111030088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0044 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Monterrey, Mexico, 10 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Angelica Ulate and Leonel Mancillas, reporters of EL NORTE newspaper, have filed a formal complaint at the prosecutor's office in the northern State of Nuevo Leon against whoever is responsible for perpetrating physical attacks on them during yesterday's elections.

For his part, State Prosecuter Juan Francisco Rivera Bedolla promised to conduct an investigation to clear up the incident and establish responsibility. He added that no other complaints have been filed by reporters or citizens for attacks during the electoral process.

Meanwhile, Armando de Hoyos Sanchez, president of the tribunal of disputes, reported that up to now no political party has filed protests for incidents related to the elections held on 9 November and reminded that the term to do so will end tomorrow at 1800. He said the official elections results will be announced on 13 November.

Antidrug Operations in Acapulco Reported

FL1011222588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0102 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Acapulco, Mexico, 9 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Members of the Mexican Army stationed in Acapulco have destroyed 1,846 poppy and 270 marijuana fields. They also destroyed 200 poppy and 36 kg of marijuana plants during October. This was done within the framework of the fight against drug trafficking.

Edmundo Paredes Espinoza, commander of the 27th military zone in Acapulco, stated that 3.2 kg of marijuana seeds, 3 kg and 705 grams of poppy seeds, and 3.5 kg of opium paste were also burned in October.

Paredes Espinoza said 14 rifles, 15 revolvers, and a vehicle were seized in various operations. In addition, 14 civilians were taken before the Federal Prosecutor's Office charged with crimes against health.

After reiterating that the permanent campaign against drug trafficking has been stepped up in the entire country, the official reported that a drug burning ceremony will be held at the Pie de la Cuesta Military Air Base No. Seven on 14 November.

El Salvador

Duarte Opens Fair, Condemns FMLN Actions Abroad

PA1411042188 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Report by Elmer Gomez—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Gomez] President Jose Napoleon Duarte called on the country's political parties that will participate in the upcoming elections to protect the democratic process and the Republic. Duarte made this call during his speech opening the 13th International Fair of El Salvador, in which 25 countries are participating.

[Duarte] "I have always been a peace lover, and that is why it grieves me to see the seriousness of the current Salvadoran conflict and crisis. I, however, believe the democratic process will be strengthened. I believe the minds of men will be transformed positively, and ideological struggles—even the most polarized ones—will be definitely solved by the civilized means of the electoral process.

"I call on all political parties to strengthen the current political process and put the sacred interests of the nation before any other interests because that is the only way to protect the Republic and consolidate the democratic revolution that belongs to all Salvadorans.

"I also want to make a call to all groups so the electoral process, which will culminate with the election of a new president next year, develops with the spiritual grandeur that corresponds to courageous people, who wish to show the world their political maturity and their desire to live in peace.

"The electoral process will slowly consolidate. I believe sooner than later, good judgement will prevail in the minds of those who have been driven mad by barbarism."

[Gomez] President Duarte also said the FMLN will not stop the democratic process and that the Salvadoran situation is different from the one presented by FMLN Commanders Joaquin Villalobos and Leonel Gonzalez during their Latin American tour.

[Duarte] "It is true that the enemies of the Salvadoran people will go on conducting their terrorist and destructive actions. Those actions, however, will not at all affect the progress made by our democratic struggle. The truth is that our crisis is as large as the effort we have made to face it. That effort goes beyond our borders and reaches the entire world.

"The social and political changes that began to take place in El Salvador are [word indistinct] and have began to show their results, despite the desperate actions the FMLN-FDR is conducting abroad in order to counter the results of the progress we have made.

"The foreigners who came to participate in this fair as well as the distinguished OAS General Assembly delegates will confirm that the Salvadoran situation is very different from that circulated abroad and disseminated as part of an FMLN -FDR disinformation plan.

"The representatives of our local subversive movements have said abroad that there is repression in El Salvador. Only a government that imposes itself by force on its people can be described as a repressive government. Our country never enjoyed so much freedom as now and its rulers were never chosen so freely as they are now."

[Gomez] [Word indistinct] President Duarte said the 18th OAS regular meeting represents the Latin American countries' support for the Salvadoran democratic process.

FMLN: 'Unilateral Truce' for OAS Meeting

PA1111234588 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2326 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The FMLN has demonstrated political maturity that has earned it international recognition and prestige. A few moments ago, a local radio station reported statements made by our Comrade Commander Joaquin Villalobos that we will now read.

Radio Farabundo Marti reports that a local radio station has been reporting statements by Comrade Commander Joaquin Villalobos in which he expresses the FMLN General Command's decision to declare a unilateral truce for the duration of the OAS meeting in San Salvador.

This unilateral truce will be in effect between 1800 on 13 November and 1800 on 18 November.

Further on Truce

PA1211024988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0027 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Nov (EFE)—The rebel FMLN of El Salvador ordered today a truce for the duration of the 28th OAS General Assembly to be held in El Salvador and challenged the Salvadoran Government and Army to adopt a similar measure.

Guerrilla Commanders Joaquin Villalobos and Leonel Gonzalez made public here an FMLN communique announcing the temporary cease-fire effective 14-18 November [dates as received].

During a news conference held in this city, the rebel chiefs said San Salvador is currently "under military control of the Armed Forces (...) [ellipsis as received] affected by the crisis of the regime, the increasing protests by the people, the government repression, and the military campaign" of this guerrilla organization.

In view of these circumstances and in view of the forthcoming OAS meeting, the "FMLN General Command" has unilaterally ordered a truce "to facilitate the security and work of the governments' representatives during their stay in El Salvador," they announced.

The guerrilla front unilaterally suspended for 5 days—as of 1800 on 13 November (0000 GMT 14 November) through 1800 on 18 November (0000 GMT 19 November)—its military campaign during the duration of the OAS foreign ministers meeting, the rebel chiefs said.

"This truce will be effective throughout the nation and will include all types of offensive actions," they announced, adding that their "forces will restrict themselves to defending themselves if they are attacked."

The communique of the guerrilla commanders emphasized that "the FMLN challenges the Government and the Armed Forces of El Salvador to correspond with a similar measure."

They also requested that "all governments participating (in the OAS meeting) put forth their good offices to halt the repression and violations of human rights in El Salvador."

They also requested that the delegations attending the OAS General Assembly try "to end the U.S. intervention in the conflict and promote a solution among Salvadorans that will end the war and that will bear in mind the existence of the FMLN as a political and military power.

The FMLN insisted on its willingness to "immediately hold a dialogue without preconditions with the Salvadoran Government" and expressed that the truce shows, even to the new U.S. Administration, that the FMLN wants to "stop prolonging a war and thus stop its increasing toll on society."

The FMLN said "The new (U.S.) Administration may begin to play a positive role in El Salvador."

Villalobos and Gonzalez, who were accompanied by Commanders Salvador Samayoa and Ana Guadalupe Martinez, said the truce expressed the political willingness of both the FMLN and their allies in the FDR to find a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The FMLN leaders met today with Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda. The meeting was part of their tour of Latin America, which has included visits to Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Villalobos and Gonzalez pointed out that they had announced their unilateral truce in this capital bearing in mind that in August 1981 Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo and French President Francois Mitterrand released a declaration recognizing the guerrillas as a militant force in El Salvador.

The guerrilla commanders said that during their tour, which they ended in Mexico, they met with top Argentine Foreign Ministry officials. They also met with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, and Manuel Solis Palma, Panama's chief executive.

In Panama, they also met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (Army and police) and with San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, who provided them with the Catholic Church's proposal for a political solution to the conflict in El Salvador.

Gonzalez said that the concern was evident in these meeting over the situation in El Salvador and that "we are recognized as a real and militant force."

Duarte Comments

PA1311041188 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—President Napoleon Duarte termed the guerrilla truce decreed for this coming week as "the best thing they could have done to show their will for peace."

The FMLN announced it will suspend hostilities this coming week so the OAS General Assembly, which will meet in San Salvador from 14 to 19 November, will be able to meet as normal.

"At last they did something good. They are going to show that when there is the will for peace it can be achieved. I think it is the best thing they could do to join the democratic process," Duarte said, at the closing of a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] event in Santa Tecla, 12 km southwest of the capital.

The event, attended by 10,000 persons, was held by PDC members of San Salvador, La Libertad, and Chalatenango Departments to pay tribute to the president, whom they called the "father of democracy in El Salvador."

In a brief speech, Duarte recalled that he is affected by terminal liver and stomach cancer, but stated that despite all medical diagnoses, he will live many more years, and not 6 months as his doctors predicted.

"Although I was told I had only 6 months to live, a miracle is happening and I am here for those who thought I would be dead. Let them know that Napoleon Duarte will be here for a long time," the chief of state declared.

Acevedo on 'Sound Policy' Continuation

PA1111210488 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] During an interview given as soon as George Bush's victory in the U.S. elections was announced, Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said: "Bush's victory represents the continuation of a sound policy in Latin America."

He added: "I mean that this policy has strengthened democracy and fostered a society that is more just and has more respect for human rights."

Acevedo pointed out: "I expect this democratization process to continue in Latin America. I think this policy involves the two U.S. parties, but Bush's 8 years of experience in the Reagan administration will surely enable him to understand Latin America's problems."

He also said some positive changes in El Salvador "could include greater support for the idea of ending the war through dialogue and democracy, greater consolidation of our political process, and substantial economic aid."

FMLN Officials Comment on U.S. Elections

PA1311222488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Interview with FMLN Commanders Juan Ramon Medrano and Jorge Melendez by unidentified Venceremos correspondent; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Here are Juan Ramon Medrano and Jorge Melendez, members of the northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front. What does the election of George Bush as U.S. President mean to Salvadorans?

[Melendez] The North Americans most aggressive policy, or the most aggressive situation of recent times, has clearly been that of Ronald Reagan. The concern of the Salvadoran people and all Latin Americans, as the world knows, is that this administration has caused serious problems for the world economy, and enormous destabilization in Latin America, especially in Central America.

Speaking about our country, we could say Salvadorans are worried about George Bush's victory because it means a continuation of that policy. It means a continuation of a policy of interference and aggression against Nicaragua and a policy of interference and [word indistinct] of a war that is evidently maintained due to U.S. intervention. Our general command has described it as an artificial war because it is not caused by internal factors. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Commander Juan Ramon Medrano, with the election of Bush, what chance is there for solving the Salvadoran conflict through political negotiations?

[Medrano] [Words indistinct] the balance of forces, international determination, is now more in support of a change in the relations between the United States and Latin American countries. At the recent meeting of Latin American countries in Punta del Este, it was stated that the United States must respect our countries; that [the situation in Latin America] is not an East - West problem; that is, relations between communism and capitalism or democracy; but that the real problem is the U.S. policy of domination and the dependence of the Latin American countries, which has really caused the crisis in our countries, and that this is the real cause of the deepening of conflicts.

Therefore, we can say the situation is leading Latin America to be increasingly concerned with finding a solution among Latin Americans, and among Central Americans in our case. We must take into consideration that in El Salvador, the projections or prospects are that a counterinsurgency plan of a U.S. Republican or Democratic administration can no longer impose a policy of complete domination. In our case, the prospects for a realistic solution of the conflict, the prospects for peace and stability for Central America [words indistinct] the Latin Americans as well as European countries, is really a popular and democratic government, a government that will demand respect for the country, recover our national sovereignty, and at the same time guarantee respectful relations with the United States, but not based on dependence. The prospects for peace and stability will then be a popular project with the participation of all segments of society.

[Correspondent] It has been said, and you have repeated it in this conversation, that the Army of the Salvadoran regime is completely dependent on the Reagan administration for military supplies and financing. How will Bush's election affect the regime's armed forces?

[Medrano] Your question could also be: Will the solution be political or military? The military is expecting a prolongation of the war rather than achieving a military victory in the near future. They want to diminish the crisis. In reality, the United States wants to maintain the unity of the armed forces by continuing the same strategy: let us hold out for 1 year, 2 years, or 5 years, whatever is necessary. However, what is the meaning of unity? It means continuing as an instrument of current U.S. policy.

But the Army, probably, has one more task ahead. There have always been groups in the Army that have had a nationalist way of thinking, who think democratically, and who are intelligent. These are men; not just machines or whatever the high command wants them to be—men just following orders. These are men who think and look for options. Following this line of thought, what can they find? One has to differentiate between what the high command, Coprefa, and the U.S. Embassy says are FMLN terrorists and totalitarian plans, and what the Salvadoran people and political parties want from a

consensus or convergence government. This convergence government, this alternative, must also be sought by the military and this is going to occur because we will need to oppose those who have sold themselves to, or have identified fully and totally with, a foreign power.

Therefore, the war is going to continue because of U.S. meddling, but the [opportunity for a] political solution is also going to exist because most Salvadorans tend to look for a solution and oppose a war based on geopolitical or power interests.

The peoples' democratic plan is not to form a government that is against the United States. All it is is a new type of relations between Latin America, Third World countries, and the superpowers. In other words, [it is] our need to look for models of development. This is something that is going to affect all of Salvadoran society, and right now we can guess that it will include all levels of society: middle class, bourgeoisie, Army, professionals, the people, and revolutionary movements.

In this case, political solutions and military solutions are not a contradiction because it is not going to be a military victory against nationalist and democratic tendencies. Instead, it is going to be a military victory against a turncoat policy, against a policy of handing over the country's sovereignty.

[Correspondent] For other groups, George Bush's election and the possibility that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] will win the Salvadoran elections means increased repression and crimes against the Salvadoran peoples movements. Could this stop the triumph of the peoples movements? What do you think, Commander Medrano?

[Medrano] The defeat of U.S. policies and the real prospects for moving ahead have always depended on the incorporation of a broad group of people in all levels of the struggle. This is why at this moment the most important thing is that this country's youngsters, elders, women, and children who belong to the peoples sector join the various levels of struggle of our revolutionary peoples movement. That is what is going to decide in the long run what course our country is going to take. We are at a decisive point right now. There is now the possibility that a democratic and popular government will resolve once and for all the country's repression and misery.

Archbishop on Meetings With FMLN, U.S. Envoy

PA1211155188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Report on interview with Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Concerning his recent meeting with guerrilla commander Joaquin Villalobos, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, said that he gets the impression that the FMLN believes more in a people's rebellion than in a negotiated political solution to the conflict.

The meeting with the FMLN leaders was held on Tuesday, 18 October, in Panama City after the top Catholic authorities in San Salvador delivered the final document on the national debate to FMLN commanders Joaquin Villalobos and Leonel Gonzalez. Archbishop Rivera y Damas said that they discussed various topics during these meetings, including the possibility that the conflict could be solved through a negotiated political solution. However, the two rebel commanders seemed to be more in favor of a people's rebellion.

[Rivera y Damas] "We talked with them about other alternatives, and they said that the situation is ripe for a rebellion. I told them I did not share their opinion, and I tried to show them that circumstances were not right. On the contrary, I said I thought the people were tired of war and wanted peace. I encouraged them to discontinue this violence."

[Reporter] "Monsignor, do they feel there is any possibility for solving the conflict soon through a negotiated political solution or are they more interested in the rebellion?"

[Rivera y Damas] "I get the impression they think a dialogue that would culminate in a negotiated end to the violence is the ideal solution; however, I noticed they are leaning more toward rebellion than dialogue."

Msgr Rivera y Damas met this morning with U.S. Abmassador William Walker, with whom the San Salvador archbishop discussed general topics, emphasizing the work done up to now by the legal assistance section of the Archbishop's Office.

[Rivera y Damas] "Naturally, in this first meeting, we talked about topics of general interest, and I think he exhibited much good will, particularly in regard to wanting to be informed about the work done here through the legal assistance office in defending human rights."

Referring to another subject, Rivera y Damas interpreted George Bush's victory in the presidential elections as a referendum in favor of President Reagan. He said Bush's victory represents a continuation of U.S. policy in Central America.

Ungo Travels to UN, Discusses Elections

PA1511044488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2256 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] New York, 14 Nov (EFE)—FDR presidential candidate Guillermo Ungo today discussed the threats to the electoral campaign, which begins this Saturday.

During a news conference at the United Nations, Ungo described the situation in his country, saying "There has been an escalation in violence by the Army and paramilitary forces, and there is uncertainty about the (FMLN) guerrillas' behavior on election day."

Ungo plans to meet with UN General Assembly President and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and with European and Latin American ambassadors to brief them on the situation in his country, and to discuss the "Group of Eight" declaration on El Salvador.

"Our desire is to complete the electoral process, which depends not only on us, but also on the Army and the death squads," the FDR—which is part of the "Democratic Convergence" coalition—candidate said, referring to threats that opposition members have received.

The FMLN guerrillas' position regarding the electoral campaign "will be of neutrality and understanding" toward the FDR decision to participate in the elections.

Ungo said "The most sensitive point will be the FMLN's behavior on election day," which will take place in 4 months. He pointed out this will be the fifth time elections will have been held in El Salvador in a "war situation."

"The government is intensifying the war, stressing total repression, which is reflected in the military changes," Ungo said, after referring to the total "weakening" of the power held by President Duarte, who is suffering from cancer.

Ungo believes the Honduran proposal of sending a UN peace force to Central America "seems to be getting away from Esquipulas II," which established an international Verification and Follow-Up Commission.

For Ungo, "The basic problem in the Central American conflict is at the Nicaraguan borders with Honduras and Costa Rica." Ungo reiterated "There is no point in controlling the areas bordering El Salvador."

Referring to Republican candidate George Bush's victory in the U.S. elections, Ungo believes Bush "should make some corrections" in the policies of his precedessor Ronald Reagan, and pointed out that "he does not expect spectacular changes."

Had Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis won, "It would have been more positive for Latin America's development," Ungo said.

Regarding his party's relations with the FMLN, Ungo emphasized "He will not play the rightwing's game," and clarified that his party is not Marxist- Leninist, as the guerrilla group is.

Ungo added: "We are two separate groups with alliances and relations." He explained that if his party wins the elections, it will promote a dialogue and national understanding to which the FMLN would be invited.

Ungo will travel to Washington on Tuesday, where he plans to meet with U.S. Congressmen, but not with U.S. Administration officials.

* Chavez Mena Discusses Party Platform

32480021b San Salvador EL DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 27 Sep 88 p 5

[Excerpt] The presidential campaign began, for all practical purposes, on Sunday with the proclamation of the candidates of the National Conciliation Party (PCN). It became more animated yesterday, Monday, when Dr Fidel Chavez Mena, the Christian Democratic candidate, was interviewed on TV. [passage omitted]

[Passage omitted] He pinpointed his position in what he called "the great center," in contrast to the extreme left and the extreme right.

Regarding his platform, Mr Cristiani said that it is one of modern capitalism, liberal in nature, based on the trickle-down theory. He reasserted his own principles of social market economics, within a broad framework of participation by management and labor.

The following main points were dealt with in the interview.

He defended an employment policy based on public investment programs and facilities provided to the private sector, as well as measures designed to protect the buying power of wages. He advocated avoiding or reducing maladjustments, such as inflation and the budget deficit.

Regarding international cooperation, he conceded that for some time the country will require it, but he declared emphatically that it is not a matter of giveaways or handouts, but rather a right of underdeveloped countries that is recognized worldwide, even at United Nations' conferences.

He argued that reform programs, particularly agrarian reform, should be maintained, but also modernized. 'Whatever corrections are necessary should be made so that these programs can become more profitable, both socially and economically.

With reference to politics, he emphasized the strengthening of the democratic process. He appealed to the other parties to strive to encourage a greater number of citizens to participate in the elections. He also called for what he termed the "depolarization" of the political discussion, reducing the level of aggression that has characterized it in the past.

He stated that his government will carry out a thorough educational reform that will take into account the changes that have taken place in our country and in the world, and our development needs. As for the content of such reform, he repeated the phrase of the great pedagogue John Dewey: "A school for democracy."

He told how, in his political tours of the interior of the country, he has heard people in all sectors express their concerns about both individual and legal security and about putting an end to the war and solving unemployment.

He said that critical poverty is the fundamental problem in El Salvador.

In response to questions by the interviewers, he denied the existence of the so-called "Alfil Plan."

Describing his personal experience to the viewers, Dr Chavez Mena said that he came from a family of modest means. He summed up the objectives of his platform as promoting "equal opportunities for all Salvadorans."

Guatemala

Cerezo Receives President-Elect Salinas

FL1111223588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2043 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 11 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari reiterated here that his country will continue respecting the will of Guatemalan refugees in the border State of Chiapas.

Salinas de Gortari, who began a goodwill visit to Guatemala, granted a brief interview after placing a floral wreath at the foot of the Central American Independence Heroes monument. He was accompanied by Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle. [passage omitted]

Salinas de Gortari talked in private for 55 minutes with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo at the National Palace. Later, the Mexican president-elect and his entourage had a 30-minute public appearance with the Guatemalan president. [passage omitted]

Views Exchanged

PA1511025288 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari described the meeting he held yesterday with President Cerezo Arevalo as "very cordial and positive." The meeting was part of the activities carried out during Salinas' visit to our country to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Salinas arrived at the National Palace at 1130 and was received by President Cerezo in his office. Views were exchanged on topics of common interest, bilateral issues, and the Central America situation as well as other parts of the world.

Noted was the boost in Mexican-Guatemalan relations over the past few years and the need for the Latin American democratic process to be strengthened.

Also agreed on was the need to maintain "close and permanent contact between Mexico and Guatemala, with the intensity demanded of two neighboring nations," allowing the two countries to strengthen cooperation between them.

Cerezo and Salinas voiced their confidence that the Central American peace process will continue in the same spirit of political will expressed in the Guatemala declaration.

During the meeting, several Guatemalan state ministers entered the presidential office and Salinas and Cerezo exchanged gifts in their presence.

Salinas left the National Palace at 1230 to go to the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala, where he had lunch with representatives of our country's news media.

* Reportage on Struggle for Agrarian Reform

* Agrarian Reform Disavowed

32480011b Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Sep 88 p 18

[Text] Nery Samayoa, the president of the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INTA), said that there would be no agrarian reform. He made the remark in a speech that he gave in Coatepeque, Quetzaltenango under the auspices of the Association of Coffee Grower Experts (ATECA), which is headed by Hugo Campollo.

Samayoa stated, among other things, that there would be no confiscatory agrarian reform under the current administration, thus confirming previous statements by the president of the republic, Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, according to a letter from Roberto Ferret, the owner of the El Rosario estate in Colomba Costa Cuca, Quetzaltenango.

Samayoa also said, according to our informant, that land invasions would not be permitted and that private property would be respected.

Samayoa's assertions were well received by the growers along the country's southern coast, who were worried about a series of estate invasions that had taken place, Ferret said in conclusion.

* Peasants Awarded Farms

32480011b Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 26 Sep 88 p 2

[Text] Next week the government of the Republic will hand over 3 farms to 845 peasant families through INTA.

The announcement was made by Nery Orlando Samayoa, the president of the institute, who indicated that the administration of President Cerezo Arevalo is thus continuing to help the peasant families that have no land to work.

The farms to be handed over are Palestina in the jurisdiction of Panzos, Alta Verapaz, which covers 5 caballerias [1 caballeria=111 acres] and 19 manzanas [1 manzana=1.75 acres] and will benefit 250 families; Pacanche, in the jurisdiction of Tucuru in the aforementioned department, and which is large enough to benefit

65 more families; and finally, the Poblaj farm in Chicaman, Quiche, which covers 17 caballerias and 21 manzanas and will benefit 530 families.

As for the takeover of some parcels by peasants from Todos Santos Cuchumatan, Huehuetenango, he said that this happened because their owners had abandoned them or the lands were idle.

Thus, he added, in keeping with the agrarian policy of the Christian Democrat administration and of the institute, the lands were turned over to the people who are now occupying these parcels, inasmuch as they have demonstrated that farming is their livelihood.

At present 34 of the peasants have been given legal ownership of the land; 15 farms that had already been placed in the government's name to be awarded to their owners were recovered, and just 13 of the previous beneficiaries have retained their parcels, he said in conclusion.

* Land Seizure Terminated

32480011b Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Sep 88 p 12

[Report by correspondent Edgar Octavio Giron Castillo]

[Text] Coatepeque—More than 300 peasants, including children and elderly men and women, were removed by the National Police and the Property Guard from the Montecristo farm, which is owned by the Santiago de Coatepeque Savings and Loan Cooperative.

The farm is located at kilometer 15 on the road from Tilapa to La Blanca in that municipality.

The peasants had invaded the farm this past 13 June, because they had nowhere to live and no land to farm, just as now.

The police took the peasants by surprise, thus giving them no time to react. At the time there were only women and children in the humble huts, as the men were working in the fields.

The cooperative hired several people to remove the peasants' belongings from the humble dwellings.

The leader of the group, Felix Saturnino Mejia Ambrosio, and other leaders of the peasant community were not present as they had traveled to the capital on an errand related to the awarding of the farm by the government.

The peasants' belongings could be seen alongside the highway for about 500 meters. Their requests for several more days to look for someplace to go and to arrange for the transportation of their belongings went unheeded.

The peasants refused to abandon the farm because they had planted their corn and were waiting to harvest it. They had hoped that the government would award them the farm. It was learned, however, that another group will be awarded the 9-caballeria property.

* Peasants Seize Farm

32480011b Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Sep 88 p 16

[Text] The day before yesterday some 40 peasants armed with machetes seized the Eskimo farm by the Entre Rios branch road in Morales Izabal, to protest their firing on 30 May.

According to reports from the area, the peasants took over the farm to protest the massive firing that followed the loss of the harvests because of the heavy rains that drenched the region.

The peasants are asking the employers at the farm to reinstate them as soon as possible because they have been having financial problems.

According to the National Police report, there have been no incidents on the farm.

Honduras

Azcona Supports Salvadoran Atlantic Outlet

PA1411143888 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Nov 88 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Deputy Economy Minister Dario Hernandez yesterday said that despite the opposition of politicians and the Armed Forces, President Jose Azcona's government continues to stand firmly behind the idea of implementing an agreement that will grant El Salvador a sea outlet on the Honduran Atlantic coast.

Two weeks ago in San Salvador, the Salvadoran and Honduran economy ministers signed an agreement allowing the Salvadoran people to import and export merchandise through Puerto Cortes.

Hernandez said the government will send the signed agreement to the National Congress, where "at the right time, it will be studied and if considered appropriate, approved."

The Honduran Government official said the signing of this agreement with El Salvador is an opportunity Honduras should take advantage of because others like it may not come up in the future.

Hernandez said if the agreement is not implemented, the country will continue to use only 30 percent of the National Ports Enterprise (ENP) capacity in Puerto Cortes.

The government official warned that if Honduras does not allow its territory and Puerto Cortes to be used for shipping Salvadoran merchandise, then the Guatemalans will continue to profit from this decision. The port of Santo Tomas in Guatemala currently provides El Salvador with these services.

When asked about the Armed Forces' opposition to the signing of the agreement, Hernandez said the Armed Forces "are not independent; they are under the executive branch even though the commander is appointed by the National Congress."

Deputy Economy Minister Hernandez said the military is worried because it feels the agreement will hinder solving the border issue with El Salvador and will affect our national sovereignty.

Hernandez said the Armed Forces' concern has been taken into consideration, but "We see as a strictly economic matter, and we feel we have made progress in the solution to the border issue with El Salvador; this matter has been taken before the International Court of Justice."

Therefore, he added, an economic agreement of this nature would have no effect on the ruling by the judges.

Hernandez added that "the National Congress has the right to approve or reject the agreement."

He said the agreement reached with El Salvador does not undermine national sovereignty, hinder the hearings in The Hague, or mean that Honduras is being sold.

Peace Council President Denounces U.S. Policy

PA1211182588 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Report by Guillermo Castellanos Enamorado on speech by Peace Council President Juan Almendarez Bonilla at a "civic protest rally" in Morazan Park, Tegucigalpa, on 10 November]

[Text] [Castellanos] At yesterday's civic rally in Morazan Park, Dr Juan Almendarez Bonilla condemned the anonymous people who were opposed to the rally and who were fighting against it through certain media. In his speech, Dr Almendarez Bonilla said:

[Begin Almendarez recording] We cannot agree with the repressive policies that have served to make hundreds of Hondurans disappear. They [not further identified] have even persecuted and threatened the mothers and wives of those missing, such as in the cases of Roger Gonzalez, Natalia Cabrera, and comrade Sosa—Tomas Nativi's companion.

This policy is called state terrorism. It is the policy by which any means—buying consciences or waging psychological warfare—is used to break up the Honduran patriotic movement. We should also consider those who have displaced peasants. These very same peasants who are fighting for their land are being accused of being invaders when the invaders are the contras and the gringos who take up most of our national territory. [applause]

It is necessary to brandish the flag of national diginity. Villagers have their homes destroyed, leaving behind homeless mothers and children crying in the streets, and then they are accused of being invaders. The same thing happens in South Africa with apartheid. We are turning this into a Latin American apartheid.

You must also understand that each time we purchase weapons, every time those U.S. helicopters fly over Honduran soil, this also is our peoples' money. This is called paying for the war. This means increasing the debt, which exceeds 6 billion lempiras. This means that Honduran children suffer hunger and pain. This is why we cannot favor this position.

Another thing I want to discuss and believe is basic are the famous U.S. elections. As far as we are concerned, the United States will continue its aggressive and violent policy against Central America. It is not a peace policy but a racist and extremist policy. That is why it hurts the contras and the U.S. Embassy when the people say no to the war against Nicaragua. The self-determination of the Central American peoples should be respected.

I also want to refer to another subject that we should also discuss very tactfully: the drug trafficking question. We Hondurans are accused of being the first aerial bridge for drug trafficking in Latin America. It used to be Panama and Puerto Rico, but we must remember that Panama was occupied by U.S. troops and that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony, even though colonialism is prohibited by the United Nations.

Why are we now the first bridge for drug trafficking? Since when did we become the first bridge for drug trafficking? This happened right from the beginning of the U.S. military occupation. [end recording]

[Castellanos] Dr Juan Almendarez Bonilla saluted domestic and foreign newsmen, saying that their presence had prevented any conflicts from taking place during the rally, which was peaceful.

Leading Communist Interviewed by CSSR Daily

AU1111185688 Bratislava ROLNICKE NOVINY in Slovak 9 Nov 88 p 7

[CTK report: "Upsurge of Nationwide Movement; Talking to the Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras"]

[Text] Managua—In his interview with CTK [date, place not given], Rigoberto Padilla, secretary general of the Communist Party of Honduras (PCH), pointed out the

current upsurge in Honduras of the nationwide movement for democracy and national sovereignty, against the presence of foreign units, and for halting military maneuvers in Central America.

He stressed that Honduras is facing a deep political, economic, and social crisis. The situation of its working people is deteriorating from day to day, in spite of U.S. assistance to the present regime. The United States is giving Honduras $500,000 every day (via the Agency for International Development), but this assistance is merely helping to intensify the existing Honduran dependence on the United States. The fact that the United States is financing 40 percent of our state budget gives it the right to dictate our government policy, Padilla said.

He pointed out the dangers in signing the new military treaty between Honduras and the United States, since it would practically mean handing over Honduran territory to the United States. He remarked that the Honduran and U.S. Governments pretend that the treaty is merely an appendix to the military agreement signed in 1954. All strata of the Honduran society, including some government members, are opposed to the treaty.

In the next part of his interview Padilla stressed that the progressive and democratic forces in Honduras are developing significant protest campaigns, disregarding the assassination threats coming (particularly) from the ultra-rightwing terrorist organization called the Alliance of Anticommunist Action; this organization has already assassinated or kidnapped about 200 opposition leaders since 1982. "However, this situation has led to a most positive result: despite the existing differences, the revolutionary forces have united on the basis of a minimum program promoting national sovereignty, the withdrawal of foreign units, the removal of military bases, the halting of military maneuvers, the enforcement of the Economic Program For National Salvation, respect for human rights, the involvement of the masses in decisions, and an independent foreign policy," he added.

He then stressed that the PCH would on no account relinquish its program; nevertheless, he said, at the moment it sees its main task in fighting for peace and for Central American unity, as its contribution to the worldwide peace struggle.

He stated that the so-called minimum program is also supported by a significant group of the bourgeoisie, represented by the so-called continental group which rallies entrepreneurs and bankers from the northern part of the country.

Nicaragua

President Ortega's Message to Bush Published

PA1511004488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Nov 88 p 5

["Message," dated 12 November, from President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to U.S. President-elect George Bush]

[Text] 12 November 1988 Mr George Bush President-elect of the United States of America Washington, D.C.

On learning the results of 8 November elections in which you were elected to be the next U.S. President, allow me to greet you and express Nicaragua's desire to work for the normalization of relations between our countries.

On this occasion I recall that when we shook hands at the Brazilian Congress headquarters in March 1985, Latin American and world leaders broke into applause, clearly expressing the desire that peace should exist between our two nations.

This is Nicaragua's desire and we understand it is also the will of the vast majority of American people.

I invite you to work with us to convert this noble desire for peace into reality. Yours truly, Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Ortega at C.A. Seminar, Calls for 'Peace Zone'

PA1411014988 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has proposed to the Central American heads of states that the area should be made into a zone of peace and neutrality. He made these remarks during a seminar on the Central American parliament. The seminar, for area politicians and legislators, began yesterday in Managua. Deputies from all the Central American countries are attending the seminar.

He called on strengthening Central American unity so that, with the support of Latin America and the international community, it will be possible to attain total peace. Peace is understood in political, economic, and social terms. Ortega reiterated Nicaragua's support for the upcoming meeting of area presidents to follow up on Esquipulas II, which has not taken hold due to pressures from Washington.

RN Asks OAS To Meet on Country's 'Problem'

PA1311201288 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The leadership of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] has sent a letter to the participants in the 18th OAS General Assembly via the Salvadoran foreign minister, who will chair the meeting which begins next week. [passage omitted]

This was announced by Roberto Ferrey, executive secretary of the RN Directorate, who said that the letter asks the OAS to disavow the Sandinists in the same way it disavowed the Somoza regime.

[Begin Ferrey recording] Yesterday, the RN Directorate delivered a letter to Salvadoran Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, who will preside over the OAS General Assembly beginning on Monday in San Salvador.

The document handed to the Salvadoran Foreign Affairs minister reminds the OAS that the resolution that expelled, or put an end to the Somozist government in 1979 was based on three fundamental points. The OAS resolution says that the Nicaraguan people are currently suffering the horrors of a bloody armed struggle, which is causing enormous suffering and loss of life and has subjected the country to political, social, and economic troubles.

Second, the conduct of the dictatorial regime, as evidenced in the human rights reports, has created the dramatic situation the Nicaraguan people are enduring.

Third, the situation in Nicaragua affects not only the countries in the region, but also the peace of the continent.

The second part of the document lets the Salvadoran foreign affairs minister know that these three conditions still exist in Nicaragua. There is a war, an armed struggle, that affects the population, and it has subjected the country to political, social, and economic troubles. There is a dictatorial regime in power that violates human rights and is the fundamental cause of the situation affecting the Nicaraguan people.

In addition, the Nicaraguan situation affects not only the Central American countries but also the rest of the continent. Consequently, since the meeting to verify compliance with the OAS resolution was left open, the OAS is requested during its 5-day stay in San Salvador to deliberate once again on the problem of Nicaragua and take the necessary actions to bring the war to an end, to put a halt to human rights violations, and to achieve once and for all the establishment of a democratic system in keeping with the will of the people. [end recording]

Ferrey added that the OAS will also be asked to make public the review of almost 2,000 briefs on political prisoners who were members of Somoza's National Guard and who are now serving long sentences in Sandinist jails. We know that according to an Inter-American Human Rights Commission report that all those trials were illegal and should be annulled and that less than 100 individuals were truly responsible for crimes and should be given new trials, Roberto Ferrey said in conclusion.

Ortega Greets Visiting Vietnamese Delegation

PA1211134688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Responding to a brief welcoming speech by President Daniel Ortega, General Vo Nguyen Giap, Communist Party Central Committee member and vice chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, said our peoples are struggling together for peace, national independence, and freedom. He said our peoples are seeking a true peace, which is peace with honor, and the right to self-determination and social progress.

Following a welcoming ceremony at the airport, the Vietnamese delegation, accompanied by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, laid a wreath at the tomb of Commander Carlos Fonseca.

Gen Giap said that the Nicaraguan revolution reflects the struggle for freedom and independence. The right to live for all people cannot be measured in square kilometers or by dollars but rather by the spirit and the determination of peoples to fight and win in the struggle for peace with unity, unity, and more unity; triumph, triumph, and more triumph, Gen Giap said in citing Ho Chi Minh. President Ortega responded by saying: That is the formula.

Gen Giap Decorated

PA1411015288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has decorated Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, with the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order. Gen Vo Nguyen Giap, who received the order's highest grade, the Battle of San Jacinto, is visiting Nicaragua. Local press reports noted that Gen Vo Nguyen Giap was the strategist of the Diem Bien Phu battle against French troops in May 1954 and of the U.S. military defeat in Vietnam.

Radio Editorial Urges Internal Dialogue

PA1111163588 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Station editorial]

[Excerpts] At 1120 Washington time, 1020 in Managua, on Tuesday, 8 November, Democratic Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis went on television to concede defeat. He asked his supporters to give their full support to the winner George Bush. It was a moving moment to see a man admitting he has lost while at the same time setting aside his own and his party's interests for the sake of unity to keep his country in its rightful place as the first nation in the world. This is a good lesson for our politicians, who have always done the opposite. Mr

Bush, the unquestionable winner of the elections, gladly accepted Mr Dukakis' offer. He reaffirmed that he will not rule for his party but for each and every U.S. citizen. [passage omitted]

Concurrently with Mr Bush's victory, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra demanded a new dialogue with the new U.S. President to formalize relations between the two countries, which have been greatly affected recently. We regard the demand as positive. Yet reactivating an internal dialogue with the political forces too, and defining unity based on the right of every Nicaraguan to participate in decisions that will bring bring peace, tranquillity, reconciliation, democracy, and welfare would be more appropriate. Too many lessons have already been learned to continue ignoring reality. [passage omitted] If a dialogue with the United States is desirable, it is equally important and fair to open the doors anew to seek internal solutions that will enable us to attain the long-awaited unity. We can say that one good turn deserves another. We must not and cannot demand that others do what we are unwilling to do. We have wasted many opportunities, leading us to a major failure. This is the time to take stock of our situation and not to think about ideologies but about Nicaragua, which deserves better. Thank you.

Opposition Leaders Say Repression To Increase

PA1011162488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1934 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan civic opposition fears the Sandinist regime will increase its "repression" against dissidents, using as an excuse threats by U.S. President-elect George Bush during his electoral campaign to continue aid to the "contras." Opposition leaders interviewed by ACAN-EFE today predicted an increase in tensions in Nicaragua. Chester Guevara, acting president of the opposition Social Christian Party, said the Sandinists are trying to "justify the repressive measures they are planning against opposition leaders." Guevara pointed out that the Managua government wants to suppress beforehand all internal political activity and claimed that "worse" days lie ahead for the revolutionary regime with Bush's arrival in the White House. [passage omitted]

Mauricio Diaz, secretary general of the Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC)—a former Sandinist ally, but today strongly critical of the government— said the Managua regime's logic, following Bush's victory in the elections, will continue to be the same: "a warmongering logic." "The problem with the Sandinists is that they are not prepared for peace. On the contrary, they have promoted a culture of violence, sectarianism, and confrontation," Diaz said. According to the PPSC leader, the Sandinists are more afraid of internal freedoms than the war with the "contras," and he said the Managua government will continue to come up with "excuses to justify their internal repression." Diaz said Bush's election victory will not bring about any changes in U.S. policy toward the region in the short run. "A period of tension will come upon us instead." The political leader, however, does not believe "the new President will decide on the military option," but he added that Bush will continue "to pressure" the Managua government into democratizing the country.

Moreover, Luis Sanchez, leader of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, said the Sandinists cannot negotiate "matters of security" with the United States, as the Sandinists are demanding because that only pertains to the two world powers. He pointed out that Bush's victory has been well received by the "warmongering sectors," who believe Bush will bring "continuity to Reagan's policies" against the Sandinists.

Cardinal Rejects Government Criticism

PA1511023788 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo extolled the values of liberty and justice during his Sunday homily. The cardinal also commented on charges leveled at him by the government that he had imported vehicles with U.S. Government funds.

If I had been alone, I would have perished, he said. However, I was not alone, you stood at my side, the Nicaraguan cardinal said during a mass at Don Bosco Church.

[Begin Obando y Bravo recording] [passage omitted] Why are there so many wars and why such persecution? What is the cause of so many deaths? We do not need to go far to find out. Here in Nicaragua, let us recall what causes so much war, problems, difficulties, hunger, destitution, and disgrace: Passion. [passage omitted]

What causes so much intrigue and slander? The other day I asked why so much ink is wasted; how many tons of paper, how much is spent on television for nonconstructive purposes that actually destroy. The people are dying of hunger, and television programming—I do not know how much a minute of television costs—is used for destructive purposes instead of constructive ones. [applause] Tongues are worse than swords and spears. [laughs] [passage omitted] [end recording]

Exports To Drop Due to Hurricane Damage

PA1211222788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] According to recent official estimates, Nicaragua's exports will drop by almost 45 percent compared to 1983 levels as a result of Hurricane Joan. Exports in 1988 were expected to produce $205 million in revenues; that is, $8 million more than last year. However, damage to the coffee, cotton, sesame seed, sugar, molasses, and banana crops and the cattle industry is estimated to have caused $14 million in losses.

Panama

Solis Palma Speaks on Panamanian Independence

PA1011170088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1533 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at a ceremony to commemorate independence day in La Villa de Los Santos; live]

[Text] Mrs Marisol Vasquez, chairman of the Supreme Court of Justice; Yolanda Pulicce de Rodriguez, president of the Electoral Tribunal; State Attorney Carlos Villalaz; ministers and deputy ministers; Mrs Magdalena Duran, District 72 legislator; representatives and directors of decentralized institutions; representatives of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and of the FDP staff; ladies and gentlemen:

We are commemorating today the beginning of Panama's independence. I have said that today is a day of pride for the people of Los Santos and for the Republic. As a man from Los Santos, I have the honor to salute this day which is for me a source of much satisfaction, a day I greet with gratitude.

As Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter said, the date of 10 November 1821 would have no significance if the attitude of Panamanians was not in keeping with the heroic deed performed by the people of Los Santos, who were backed by the entire country. I believe that on 28 November 1821, when Panama became independent and decided to face the risks that declaring itself a free, sovereign, and independent nation entailed, it again found the support of people throughout the country.

I believe fate has chosen me to face another difficult time for our country, when a new effort to subjugate the country is under way. In 1821 we belonged to the Spanish crown and we struggled for liberty. In 1988 we do not belong to any empire but an effort is still being made to subjugate us, and we are not going to stand for that.

As a Panamanian, as a man from Los Santos, and also in response to the honor you have bestowed upon me today, I am committing myself and my entire government team to spill, at the side of all the Panamanian patriots, my last drop of blood to defend our nation's sovereignty and dignity. [applause]

Ambassador Davis' 'Destabilization Plan' Cited

PA1411152188 [Editorial Report] Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 14 November page 1 publishes a cartoon by Pena Moran depicting U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis clinging tightly to the U.S. Embassy building. While arms labeled "New Administration" try to pull him away from the U.S. Embassy, Mr Davis says: "No, no! I have not yet concluded my destabilization plan!"

At the bottom of the cartoon, a small man and a mouse are looking at the scene and talking. The man is saying: "It now turns out they are not willing to leave the embassy and Panama because, by staying, they will be able to continue their attacks on Panama!"

PAPO President Cited on Election Conditions

PA1011194188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Interview with Carlos Ivan Zuniga, People's Action Party president, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zuniga] The People's Action Party [PAPO], as well as the entire Panamanian opposition, feels that one cannot hope to hold elections in 1989 if we do not have guarantees that the people's votes are really going to be counted. The 1984 experience has justifiably made the opposition suspicious. To go to elections without public freedom, basic guarantees, or a government containing officials of a democratic nature means we are allowing ourselves to be led like sheep to a fraudulent election. We must not deceive ourselves. As things stand now, an election only extends the conflict until May, because there are many differences and the people in government are not psychologically prepared to leave power. The May election would simply spark violence once again. If all sectors in the country are not consulted and do not reach a political resolution prior to elections, we would only extend the conflict and delay the confrontation.

[Reporter] It has been reported that Dr Roberto Arosemena [PAPO secretary general] was detained for a couple of hours yesterday upon his arrival in Panama.

[Zuniga] That is correct. Dr Arosemena was returning from El Salvador yesterday and was detained at the Tocumen airport. The reason given was that there was an arrest order against him. But this was not true. An arrest warrant against Dr Arosemena has not been issued by any prosecuting attorney. An opposition party's secretary general is detained on the same day the electoral process begins. This clearly shows that we cannot talk about an election or an electoral process. At present, we do not have the necessary conditions to even think about elections.

[Reporter] What about party recruitment?

[Zuniga] Even less can we think about recruitment. I believe the people themselves are rejecting the process because they believe it to be completely tainted. The government must understand that we will maintain this position until we have hard evidence that there is going to be impartiality and that a true consultation with the Panamanians will be held.

Gonzalez de la Lastra Assails Noriega

PA1311001788 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Panamanian Social Christian Party leader Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra, in exclusive statements for our newscast, has discussed the future of Panama's Civic Crusade. The Civic Crusade played a very important role at the onset of the July 1987 uprisings in Panama, when [General Manuel Antonio] Noriega was accused of international drug trafficking, murder, and electoral fraud by one of his collaborators.

At the present time, [Gonzalez de la Lastra said,] legal action has been taken against the majority of the Civic Crusade's leaders; some of them are in exile and others are in prison. The Noriega regime's brutal repression forbids any demonstrations whatsoever. Panama has been occupied by its own Army, an army that has sold the country to international crime. The world does not know that Panama's situation becomes more critical each day.

Gonzalez de la Lastra further stated that the Panamanian people are experiencing a serious crisis. Opposition leaders are subjected to cruel torture and women are raped. He added that the Civic Crusade is alive in the hearts of the Panamanian people, but any attempts at mobilization have been repressed.

Regarding the media, Gonzalez de la Lastra said that only media supporting the regime have continued to operate. He added that the military has closed down any media opposed to Noriega.

Gonzalez de la Lastra pointed out that, in the history of mankind, no country has been able to rid itself of a tyrant without the help of other countries. He added that there has been no solidarity in Panama's case and that other governments maintain a hypocritical attitude toward Panamanians.

Gonzalez de la Lastra said that although Noriega has assumed a nationalist stance, he is nothing but a thug who has sold himself to the CIA and the KGB and has done nothing positive for Panama. He added that the long arm of the drug trafficker [Noriega] has extended into many countries and has information that could be destabilizing. He further maintained that Noriega has influence over the Pentagon, the CIA, and Latin American governments.

Gonzalez de la Lastra trusts that Noriega's military power will weaken so Panama may attain democracy and return to a state of law through free elections. He feels the degree of moral, political, and social deterioration in Panama will result in a violent response from the people. Some sacrifice will be needed to benefit everyone.

Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra has sent a message to the Panamanian people who are burdened by Noriega's tyranny:

[Begin Gonzalez de la Lastra recording] I would like to send a clear message to my country, to my companeros, to all Panamanian citizens. As long as people remain passive and there is no possibility for sacrifice, military rule will continue in Panama for weeks, months, and years. This government is destroying our country. All of Panama's men and women need to begin demonstrating in all of Panama's cities, villages, and corregimientos. This entails a willingness to make some personal sacrifices, as many of us have already done to some degree. I call upon the Panamanian people to cast their passiveness aside and start confronting the monster, because the monster is weaker than we think. [end recording]

Opposition To Participate in'89 Elections

PA1011181688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1622 GMT 10 Nov 88

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian opposition does not have confidence in the May 1989 election process and claims that the elections will not resolve anything if General Manuel Antonio Noriega remains in power. It is preparing, however, to participate in the elections and is certain it will win—at the risk of another coup—if the elections are ultimately held.

"We are preparing to play soccer and baseball at the same time," Christian Democratic "presidential" leader Ricardo Arias Calderon jokingly told ACAN-EFE when asked what the opposition's stand was based on if it insists there are no guarantees for free elections. Arias said that the government "has not given any indication" that it intends to create "the minimum necessary conditions for free elections," or that the results will be respected.

He added, nonetheless, that the decision to go to the polls may be made this month or in early December in order to draft platforms and choose candidates before year's end. [passage omitted]

Mario Galindo, another opposition leader of the Republican Liberal Movement, said there are three ways to emerge from the crisis: armed violence, which he ruled out; civil disobedience, which thus far has failed to topple Noriega; and the elections.

According to Galindo, if there is no peaceful alternative to change the regime—and he did not specify any—the opposition should think of elections, which it will win "without any doubt."

He believes that the regime of Noriega and Acting President Manuel Solis Palma do not want the opposition to go to the polls, which is why all the official events over the past weeks have sought to "dissuade the opposition from participating in the elections."

"The government," Galindo added, "will not turn over power meekly to the opposition. If the opposition unites under a single candidate, there is a risk that there will be no elections since the military leadership cannot run the risk of elections knowing that the opposition will win."

Arias takes it for granted that the opposition coalition formed for the 1984 elections, which he feels has been strengthened and consolidated, will be maintained. He said that the polls show that 80 percent of Panamanians would vote against the regime.

Galindo, Arias, and Cesar Quintero, who was president of the Electoral Tribunal in 1984 and is now in the opposition, believe that the regime will repeat the "fraud" of 4 years ago in 1989.

"Given that the military return to the barracks has not taken place, their reasons for commiting a fraud in 1989 are greater than they were in 1984," Arias told ACAN-EFE.

"But now," he added, "the opposition is greater, the independent sectors oppose the regime, the government coalition is divided, the public workers are no longer with the government, and the military has internal problems."

"In the event that, despite there being no liberties, the opposition were to participate in the elections and a fraud could not conceal the real winner, we cannot rule out a possible coup to disavow the results," Arias said. He recalled that over the past 6 years Panama has had six presidents who were removed from office for exercising a certain degree of independence at a given moment.

Paper Alleges Opposition-U.S. 'Plan'

PA1411000588 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 13 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Unattributed article: "Arthur Davis Wants To Remain at the Embassy"]

[Text] Washington, 12 Nov (S.E.) [Servicio Especial—Special Service]—In response to George Bush's victory in the U.S. elections, [Panamanian opposition figure] Gabriel Lewis Galindo—who is one of Bush's fierciest opponents and an intimate, political deal-making friend of Ted Kennedy—on Kennedy's recommendation, planned the Democratic Party's campaign based on the designs of Joel McCleary, a "lobbyist" for the "Sawyer Miller" firm, thus attacking Panama, the Panama Defense Forces, and its commander. [sentence as published] Since the American people rejected this position at the polls, Galindo is now planning a new strategy against Panama, according to a copy of a document issued by his office in Panama City.

The American people expected Michael Dukakis to solve their farming, labor, tax, immigration, and other problems, but became frustrated when the Democratic candidate showed himself to be indecisive to the point of being cowardly, ignorant of America's reality, lacking in personality, and attempting to be like the late John Fitzgerald Kennedy while rebuffing his orthodox spiritual leader, whom he refused to listen to and rudely excluded.

This Michael Dukakis, supported by Gabriel Lewis Galindo, is a consumate racist who denied the Reverend Jesse Jackson an opportunity in order to prevent black Americans from having political leadership and a democratic hope.

This entire plan, based upon the package presented by the "lobbyist" Joel McCleary, led to the Democrats' failure because of Americans' awareness, their leaders' refusal to be deceived, and the fact that they know that both Dukakis and Bush are sons of the "American establishment," neocolonialism, and imperialism, who are interested in strategic areas of Panama for which—according to statements by U.S. officials—George Shultz has already signed a document to extend the presence of U.S. military bases beyond the year 2000, with administrative privileges for the United States in the Canal Zone. [Shultz has also signed an agreement] for the Betchel Company, which is co-owned by Secretary of State Shultz, to work on an alternative to the canal.

Since George Bush's victory is already a fact, Gabriel Lewis Galindo—who stole from Torrijos, plotted against Freddy Humbert [not further identified], and blackmailed a president-elect by bringing him the "lobbyist" Joel McCleary—has begun implementing another plan that consists of forcing the formation of a provisional government that would include Mario Galindo, his relative and another docile member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party who, because of family reasons, is keeping in contact with ranking Washington officials.

The new government—according to the document—would "eliminate the General Staff and Military Strategic Council, and dismantle the Defense Forces, turning them into a small community police force."

This new government would also seek the revision of the canal treaties with financial support from Asian countries such as Japan, nationalist China, and Korea, in order to compensate for the imbalance of Asian and U.S. investments.

The plan, as usual, would be based upon the old design created by Jose I. Blandon, who today is a prisoner of the Yankee gold he spent so many years criticizing, and who a few days ago—protected by 10 sheriffs—attempted to intimidate and impress a prominent Panamanian investor at the house that the gringos gave Gabriel Lewis Galindo here in Washington.

This is the beginning of Arthur Davis' plan. He is very happy and hopes to remain in Panama with John Maisto. According to reports, they have increased contacts, meetings, and periodic evaluations with local politicians. These politicians, believing in their own influence, attend these meetings, not knowing that as useful

fools they are helping them try to recover influence they no longer have, as what they want is to hold on to their jobs. This is typical of Panamanian turncoats who since the birth of the nation have held onto their family ties.

This is why we see Christian Democratic Party and Authentic Panamenist Party leaders get together with Jose Salvador Munoz—who has been accused of working as a lawyer for drug traffickers—and Guillermo "Chuchungo" Endara, who recently went to the United States so he could bring a proposal back to Panama. The proposal was that Carlos "El Gallego" Rodriguez, Carlos Young Adames, and a certain Doctor Jurado—plus others—be appointed as new Panamenist Party directorate members with the dastardly intention of ousting old Panamanest leaders such as Hildebrando Nicosia, and to annul [the party status of] Legislator Jacobo "Baby" Salas and Gerardo Arias, son of the late Arnulfo Arias, using the old argument of [Arnulfo Arias'] widow, Mireya Moscoso de Arias [reference to speculation that Mrs Arias will assume the leadership of the Authentic Panamenist Party].

The U.S. Embassy's plan is to keep itself informed through the machinations of Gabriel Lewis Galindo, who will scrub the corridors of the U.S. Congress to push his interests and try and prove what he has always claimed: "that he is the brain, conspirer, heir, and the gray matter that illuminated Torrijos [during the negotiations] for the 1977 canal treaties." The naive gringos have believed him—a fallacy that humiliates, underrates, and is disrespectful of the intelligence of Aristides Royo, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Adolfo Ahumada, Carlos Ozores, Edwin Fabrega, Armando Contreras, and many patriots who worked in anonymity.

The embassy plan also consists of inviting for breakfast members of government parties, such as the PALA [Labor Party] and the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], seeking and offering them a future and hope in the exploitation of the egos of the ambitious and the weak, who believe that by having breakfast with Maisto and drinking a "gin and tonic" with Davis they are receiving the votes of the Panamanian people.

This new strategy, which started this week, is to use leading figures from the major political parties to meddle with those party's various internal organizations. It is part of the plan to annihilate the PRD, including labor groups. This is needed for the great 1984 "establishment" plan: to neutralize, destroy, and immobilize these forces so they cannot react in their struggle for liberty in the face of the new U.S. strategy of not complying with the canal treaties.

The main features of this plan are clear: Destroy the PRD through internal squabbling, discredit and reduce the strength of labor organizations due to a lack of party or government support, and use upper middle class politicians for grassroots leadership.

All this has been proven—even by denying entry into the United States of people who have not collaborated with them and who refuse to play their game. This contrasts with the expeditious entry of those they wish to present as "their own pawns" in the various political, social, economic, and military clashes they expect will happen.

When this new strategy was leaked from Gabriel Lewis' offices here in Washington, the Panamanian Government instructed its officials to avoid contacts with U.S. Embassy personnel in Panama. This measure is very clear: No one is authorized to speak to the embassy or to receive messages on this destabilizing plan.

[The article is accompanied by several photographs of Panamanian and U.S. politicians who are reportedly involved in the "plan." The photographs are captioned as follows: Arthur Davis: He spends his time drinking "gin and tonic." George Shultz: He wants to mortgage all Panamanians. Gabriel Lewis Galindo: The solution is aimed at defending his interests. John Maisto: He has failed and refuses to leave Panama. Carlos Rodriguez: He wants to force out old Arnulfists. Ricardo Arias Calderon: Gabriel Lewis Galindo does not take him into account. Jacobo Salas: An old Arnulfist militant. Aristides Royo: Gabriel Lewis Galindo is ignoring him. Guillermo Endara: His plan includes Mireya [Moscoso de Arias]. Mario Galindo: Oligarchic solutions. Hildebrando Nicosia: Someone is out for his head. Jose S. Munoz: A drug traffickers' lawyer. Jose Isabel Blandon: Surrounded by sheriffs]

Argentina

Human Rights Activist Not Allowed Into Cuba

PY1211150488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1424 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Nov (TELAM)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry is currently investigating an event that took place at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuba, on 9 November. On that occasion Cuban immigration officials prevented Maria Teresa Revidiego, president of the Argentine Human Rights Commission, and a journalist of the newspaper LA PRENSA from entering Cuba.

According to a Argentine Foreign Ministry press release, the Cuban ambassador in Argentina and the people who were not allowed into Cuba have been asked for information on the event so that an appropriate investigation can be conducted.

According to Argentine news media, Revidiego accused Cuban immigration officials of not allowing her into that country on 9 November, although she had a tourist visa, No 130386, issued on 8 November.

The media added that Revidiego, along with several journalists, including Argentine citizen Horacio Rodriguez of the newspaper LA PRENSA, were sent back to Mexico on 9 November.

* Cardinal Primatesta, Menem on Church Concerns

33480020B Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 28 Sep 88 p 13

[Text] What does Carlos Menem think he got out of his recent lunch with Cardinal Francisco Primatesta? The La Riojan is convinced that the upshot of the meeting was the clear but tacit support of the Argentine Episcopal Conference for his planned National Pacification Law. But there is one noteworthy point: The Peronist candidate did not give the prelate too many details about the content of that legal instrument. Instead, he expressed interest in having the Catholic Church make suggestions about drafting the legislation. Along other lines, Menem supporters are rejoicing over the rumor that Primatesta half promised to make arrangements during his upcoming visit to Rome so that Menem can meet with John Paul II. To be sure, Menem did leave important promises on the table:

- He assured the cardinal, for example, that he would personally see to it that any constitutional reform did not have an atheistic bias and that the Constitution would continue to recognize Catholicism as the traditional, majority religion of Argentines (anyway, Menem did not hide his lack of enthusiasm for the possible reform).
- He promised that he would take into account the conclusions of the National Pedagogical Congress (which had a clear Catholic majority in attendance) in drafting the educational plank of his campaign platform.
- He pledged an ongoing dialogue with the church ("especially in the area of education and cultural and mass media policy") if he is elected.

He adhered closely to the issues that are of almost exclusive interest to the ecclesiastical hierarchy.

The conclave, which should have been held much sooner but was delayed while the episcopal officials waited to see what moves the new candidate would make, was made possible by the efforts of Hugo Franco. Franco, who had strong ties with former Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet, took advantage of his contacts with Deputy Hugo Pierri, a Menem supporter, and prepared every detail of the meeting.

There were a few rough edges in the conversation, especially at two points: when Primatesta intentionally alluded to Menem's entourage (he said something to the effect that a country "can't be governed with 12 apostles"), and when the prelate mentioned that not all the bishops (some say he ventured to guess a figure: 20 percent) find Menem appealing.

In Justicialist circles, that figure was interpreted exhaustively. It was asserted that there is a group of bishops (supposedly headed by Monsignor Justo Laguna) who are close to the ruling party and the Cafierist reformists, and do not hide their resentment at the La Rioja governor's bursting on the scene. At any rate, it is not known whether Menem cited a recent favorable development in his meeting with Primatesta: In the province of Catamarca (where Menem's influence is undeniable), a constitutional reform has just been sanctioned. It includes unmistakable religious concepts; there is direct mention of the collective insertion "in Christian culture," the idea of "God the creator" is defended, and Article 64 consecrates "respect for human life from the moment of conception" (a whole anti-abortion argument). In addition, principles that Catholics hold dear, such as having the provincial government maintain worship, are protected. The requirement of being Catholic to run for governor is also preserved. Finally, the reform declares "the absolute primacy of parents with regard to the education of their children."

During the long lunch, the Catamarca issue was brought up indirectly several times, but none of those present was left with any doubt about what could well be considered a preview of the candidate's political stance on this matter.

Banks Release Loans for Yacyreta Dam

PY1111183388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The company in charge of building the Yacyreta Dam on the Parana River, in conjunction with Paraguay, have said that the $500-million loans granted by the World Bank and the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] will help the project very much.

In addition to the $250-million loan approved by the World Bank in October, the IBRD yesterday approved another loan for the same amount.

The loans already granted by these two banks for the construction of this dam now amount to $920 million.

Air Force, FRG Company Sign Agreement

PY1211161688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1330 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Cordoba, 12 Nov (NA)—The Argentine Air Force and the West German Company Dornier have signed a preliminary agreement to create a consortium to market worldwide the IA-63 Pampa training aircraft that is manufactured in the Cordoba Materiel Area.

According to Brigadier Roberto Engroba, chief of the Cordoba Material Area, this consortium will establish organizations in the United States and in Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa to sell the Pampa planes.

Dornier already has a partnership with the Military Aircraft Factory for the production of the IA-63 aircrafts. Approximately 55 percent of the IA-63 Pampa aircraft components are imported. Of these, 71 percent are U.S.-made components, including the Garret engine. This fact will help sell the training aircraft in the United States.

Engroba said that the consortium's executive board will be appointed soon so that it can immediately analyze the plan of activities and the program for the sale of the IA-63 aircraft on several international markets.

Information System Installed in Antarctica

PY1111164588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov (TELAM)—The Marambio Antarctic Base Commander, Vice Commodore Leonidas [not further identified], has said that the installation of a computerized information network terminal in the Marambio base opens another channel of communications for the men who hold our flag in this icy region of our fatherland.

This is the text of the first message that the commander and personnel of the Marambio Antarctic Base transmitted from Marambio to the Argentine Automobile Club president, Cesar Carman, through the telecommunications system of the Argentine Automobile Club.

The computerized link is a new communication channel between Buenos Aires and the Antarctic bases, where the personnel must serve for long time.

Bolivia

Authorities Confirm UMOPAR, DEA Abuses

PY1011134488 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 30 Oct 88 p 1 2d Section

[Excerpts] Guayaramerin—DEMN [Navy General Staff] Captain Luiz Daza Montero, commander of the Mamore 3d Naval District, has said that the charges levied against the UMOPAR are clear and convincing. Daza said the group of 20 Bolivian Leopards [UMOPAR agents] and two U.S. agents (DEA agents) involved in the incident at Guayaramerin were lead by Captain Jorge Santa Cruz Escobar.

Capt Daza has said that the abusive attitudes of UMOPAR has forced the usually calm population of Guayaramerin to react.

The border town authorities organized peaceful marches to ask the government to send the Leopards to help in the fight against drug traffickers, but the group that came disappointed them. "Unfortunately the group that came was not what the population expected, and the cure was worse than the ailment. At this point the town civic committee decided to meet to discuss the new situation created by the Leopards, but the meeting was interrupted by Capt Santa Cruz and the two U.S. agents. The three officers, in full uniform and brandishing arms, insulted the people," Capt Daza said.

Regarding the intervention of Armed Forces personnel, Capt Daza said they only helped reestablish order because the border police could not cope with the situation. [passage omitted]

When the Leopards felt the Navy was protecting them, they returned, and two of them, Alejandro Quino Choque and Martin Sutura Mamani, fired at the crowd.

The Navy commander said: "We cannot control people who, after receiving the protection of Navy personnel, act like common criminals. They jumped from the floor of the UMOPAR truck that was transporting them to the Marine Battalion and opened fire on the crowd, instantly killing Roberto Moreno and wounding five other people, some of them with more than one bullet. The Bolivian Navy was not able to maintain control. We tried to prevent the problem from getting worse," Daza said. [passage omitted]

'New Methods' for DEA Agents in Bolivia

PY1011135388 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Nov 88 p 1

[Excerpt] The Bolivian-U.S. Mixed Commission will discuss the behavior of DEA agents operating in Bolivia and will suggest new methods of operation to prevent protests from the civilian population.

Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal said that Bolivian and U.S. representatives will review the files on the operation of DEA agents in Bolivia. Bedregal said the

commission needs to broaden its attribution to issue new criteria and favor more harmonious action among the different departments in charge of the fight against drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

Bedregal does not believe the agents are acting against the population; on the contrary, he recognized their unselfish and hard work in Bolivia.

Bedregal said that all aspects concerning the DEA agents' participation in the drug problem and the two countries' interrelation in the fight against trafficking will be analyzed by the commission.

The foreign minister also praised the job of the UNFDAC [United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control], a U.N. organization that has produced many coca substitution programs over the last few years.

Annexes 1 and 2 of the Bolivian-U.S. treaty, which is designed to eradicate drug trafficking, will also be revised to establish new regulations more in accordance with Bolivian laws.

After the studies are finished we will have improved programs for the eradication of coca plantations. Meanwhile we expect to receive more U.S. economic and technical assistance, he said.

Antinarcotics Force Destroys 17 Cocaine Labs

PY1011141688 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] Cochabamba—According to a report by the Departmental Command of the Special Antinarcotics and Antidrug Trafficking Force, last weekend their personnel found and destroyed 17 cocaine processing laboratories and 44 pits.

The dragnet operations were conducted at the Eteramazama, Vueltadero, and Isinuta settlements in the tropical region of Chapare Department.

According to the report, the antinarcotics force seized 41.9 kg of cocaine paste and chemical substances used in its processing, including 100 pounds of sulphuric acid, 200 liters of gasoline, and 100 liters of diesel oil.

During the operation the antinarcotics forces also destroyed a communications post used by the traffickers to warn their people against police operations. This communications post was installed at Isinuta.

On 29 October, 50 bags of lime, packed inside cement bags, were seized at Huayllani.

Josefina Ruiz Aramayo, who was detained during the operations on drug trafficking charges, was placed at the disposal of the courts.

Seven Banks To Receive Investment Bonds

PY1011141188 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 30 Oct 88 p 7

[Text] Central Bank sources have reported that seven members of the international consortium of banks to which Bolivia still owes more than $300 million will soon receive the investment bonds that the Central Bank will issue for the payment of these debts.

According to the report, the decision to issue investment bonds was adopted by the Bolivian Government to solve the problem of its debt with the international private banks.

Some 50 percent of the debt has been purchased, in cash, at 11 percent of the debt's value. The remaining 50 percent will be exchanged for bonds worth $81.2 million, which will pay off a debt that totals $334 million.

The investment bonds will be endorsed by the U.S. Federal Reserve and will be traded under the name of "Triple A Bonds."

The Central Bank has contacted some financial institutions that are willing to receive the bonds. They are: Banco del Rio de La Plata, BFG Luxembourg S.A., Chemical Bank European Arab Bank, Wells Fargo Bank N.A., and Steinhard Partners. They will receive the bonds as soon as they prove that they are the creditors and have the right to receive the bomds.

Three of the institutions may immediately receive the bonds because their documents on the debt are properly endorsed and updated.

The government will assign a special premium to the $37.8-million-worth bonds, which will reach their total value in 25 years.

Brazil

Sarney Addresses Nation on 15 Nov Elections

PY1511003088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2150 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Address to the nation by President Jose Sarney, broadcast on national radio-TV hookup on 14 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Brazilian women and men, good evening.

As president of the Republic I feel obliged to address you tonight.

Tomorrow, 15 November, new mayors and councilmen will be elected throughout our country.

The Brazilian people already consider elections as part of our national, democratic routine. If we take into consideration all the difficulties we have had to overcome to reach this stage in our national life, we will easily realize how far we have advanced on the path to real democracy.

We had elections in 1985. We had elections in 1986. We elected the members of the Constituent Assembly in 1987. We are having elections in 1988, and we will have elections in 1989. I believe that no other government since the proclamation of the Republic has sponsored so many elections.

To have smoother elections, to enable the people to better exercise their rights as citizens, and to promote more honest elections, free of the vices and deformations that characterized them in the past, we renewed the electoral registry by having all Brazilians register again for these elections.

During this administration, my administration—and I am very proud to be able to say that—the government has never been accused of interfering with the elections.

I am convinced that much of my personal effort has contributed to the huge task of consolidating the transition and the democratization of the country. My determination, my effort, and my patience have contributed a great deal to the consolidation of our institutions.

Let us not believe, however, that to live in a democracy is easy. To live in a democracy is very difficult. The complex process that leads to democracy requires not only the desire to live in a democracy, but also a number of conditions that include democratic attitudes by the government, education, and the creation of a democratic conscience. A democracy, however, cannot exist without people with a democratic mind. To have a democratic mind and to behave democratically, we must say no to violence; we must reason with people to convince them of our ideas; we must exercise our right to vote to elect our leaders.

The greatest enemies of liberty in the country are those who have been using their liberty to kill liberty.

Otavio Mangabeira—the old Otavio Mangabeira who I met as a fellow deputy at the National Congress, when the Congress was still in Rio de Janeiro—used to say that democracy is a fragile plant which requires constant attention. I can say that it requires not only attention but also tenderness, care, and love.

Tomorrow we will have municipal elections. These elections are no less important than elections to choose governors, deputies, senators, or the president of the republic. At the municipal level, the pressure exerted by the vote of the common people can be more strongly felt and is more legitimate. Those who are elected accept the position and its responsibilities. Those who elect the authorities feel more responsible for the correct or incorrect choice because, I must repeat, a democratic government is based on the periodic choice of people to occupy the public offices.

Let us not make the mistake of saying that the mayor, in order to fulfill his or her duty, depends on the federal government or on the president. This mistake has been made too frequently. The voters and the candidates must realize that they have very definite duties. Candidates must convince themselves that by presenting their candidacies they must accept certain obligations. We must convince ourselves that elections obligate, bind, and commit both voters and candidates, and that the elected candidate is responsible for his or her acts to the voters who elected him or her. The strength of the democratic institutions lies in the harmony of the pyramid of democratic power.

Therefore, I want to point out that tomorrow, 15 November, we will have gone up another step, another important step, on the stairway that leads us to full democracy. I know how important this is, how many dificulties we have had to overcome to go up this step. I also know that we will continue to climb.

I would also like to point out that next year—on the first centennial of the proclamation of the Republic, when we stopped being subjects and became citizens—we will have presidential elections.

The long process, the hard crossing, will then be over, and I will be able to repeat Saint Paul's words to Timothy: I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith.

That is all that counts; all the rest is part of life.

Thank you very much. Good evening.

Sarney 'Indignant' at Cabinet Reshuffle Rumors

PY1111011188 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] At 1929 tonight the Planalto Palace Public Relations Office released a note denying a cabinet reshuffle. In the note President Sarney denies the news published today regarding changes in the presidential civil cabinet and the Mines and Energy and Justice Ministries. The press item does not have any basis.

President Sarney is indignant at the continuous actions of some people to destabilize these ministries because they have been fulfilling their duties and confronting the problems of the country.

The note is signed by the Presidential Public Relations Office.

Oil Workers Strike Affects Several Refineries

PY1211000688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Oil workers are on strike in seven states. The strike is affecting four Petrobras refineries in Sao Paulo, while in the metropolitan area it is affecting the refineries of Sao Jose dos Campos and Capuava.

In the Campinhas region, the strike is affecting the Paulinia refinery, the country's largest. The refinery is still operating because there was no shift change. The oil workers decided this evening that they will not go in to work to replace the afternoon shift. In Cubatao, the strike may paralyze the Presidente Bernardes refinery because the strikers do not plan to replace those workers currently working.

In Rio Grande do Sul, the strike affects the Alberto Pascualini refinery in Canoas near the metropolitan region of Porto Alegre. The refinery was operating this morning with the previous night's workers. Tonight the workers decided to stop the refinery. In Bahia, the (Lambuco Alves) refinery is practically paralyzed. The workers gathered in front of the refinery and did not work.

Petrobras has reported that the strike is affecting the operational sector. In Rio de Janeiro, the situation was calm in the Duque de Caxias refinery early this morning. There were no picket lines in front of the refinery. Strikers gathered in front of the Petrobras building in downtown Rio de Janeiro in the afternoon to hold an assembly to evaluate the strike. They decided to continue it.

The oil workers of the Gabriel Passos refinery of Minas Gerais and of the Araucaria refinery of Parana are also on strike. The strike is also affecting the oil platforms of Ceara and Rio Grande do Norte.

In Rio de Janeiro, Petrobras reported that 70 percent of its 55,000 workers throughout the country are on strike. The workers want a salary readjustment of 26.6 percent of the Bresser plan retroactive to September in addition to 3.5 percent for increased productivity. Petrobras said that it will fulfill the strikers' demands and that it has already paid a readjustment of 63 percent on the September salaries in addition to 3.5 percent for increased productivity.

Strike Reportedly Expanding

PY1511013888 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The National Oil Council [CNP] may order an increse in gas and diesel oil imports in view of the oil workers strike.

CNP Supply Director Geraldo Canto has said that the fuel remaining is enough to supply the country normally for 20-25 days. The greatest concern is over the supply of cooking gas, of which there is enough for only 12 days. In some cities, however, gas will not be available by the end of this week.

President Sarney will meet tomorrow with the Army minister, the Mines and Energy minister, and the CNP chairman to analyze the oil workers strike.

Petrobras Chairman Armando Guedes met this afternoon with the Oil Workers Union representative in Rio de Janeiro. No agreement was reached on ending the strike.

Petrobras has reported that oil production at the Campos Basin in Rio de Janeiro State is normal. The Oil Workers Union has reported that production in that area—which amounts to 340,000 barrels a day, 60 percent of national production—was reduced to half as a result of the strike.

Workers at the Petrobras maritime terminal in Sao Sebastiao, on Sao Paulo's northern coast, today joined the strike. This terminal is responsible for 60 percent of the crude oil distributed in Sao Paulo. [passage omitted]

Gabriel Passos Refinery in Betim, Minas Gerais State, is operating despite the strike. Some 320 of the 1,320 workers are working normally, most of them in the production sector. [passage omitted]

Petrobras has reported that the Manaus Refinery in Amazonas State is also working normally.

Labor Superior Court President Marcelo Pimentel said in Brasilia that the solution to the oil workers strike is to organize negotiations between Petrobras workers and the company's greatest shareholder, the government. This issue could again be submitted to the Labor Court but, according to Court President Pimentel, that would take too long.

[Begin Pimentel recording] [passage omitted] I believe the quickest solution is for the government to grant the workers the requested 26-percent increase which it should have already granted them. [end recording]

Sarney Receives Fiscal Readjustment Project

PY1511010488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega and Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu today submitted their project for fiscal readjustment to President Sarney.

The project does not foresee any increase in taxes but will review subsidies and fiscal incentives given to businessmen, particularly to exporters.

President Sarney will discuss the project with the governors on the morning of 17 November.

Creditor Banks Release $4 Billion of Loan

PY1511015588 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The creditor banks released today in New York $4 billion of the loan negotiated by the banks' advising committee. With this money the Central Bank will replace part of the reserves that have been used to pay interest.

Shots Fired at Minister Biasi's House

PY1211001188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Unidentified individuals fired shots at the house of Science and Technology Minister Ralph Biasi, who lives in Americana, Sao Paulo.

The attack occurred on the night of 9 November after the minister got home. Military police reported that the shots were fired by unidentified individuals from a car. The perpetrators escaped.

Police Seize Cocaine, Burn Marijuana, Detain 2

PY1111182488 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Summary] Mato Grosso do Sul Federal Police personnel have burned almost 1 ton of marijuana. They have also arrested two drug traffickers with 5 kg of pure cocaine.

The police did not reveal the identity of the traffickers, whom they believe to belong to a powerful gang with branches in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo States.

Chile

Interior Minister Views Approaching Changes

PY1211025988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Speech by Interior Minister Carlos Caceres on 11 November; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

His excellency the president of the Republic has given me the great honor of placing me at the head of the Interior Ministry in order to cooperate with him and to coordinate with the other ministers effective government activity and the progress of the country toward full democracy.

The result of the 5 October plebiscite is one more step in the process leading us toward democracy. The next steps will be the approval of basic laws and the holding of presidential and congressional elections. The Chilean people will elect in these elections the officials of the new democracy we are all helping to build. On this occasion the Chilean people will decide on the programs offered by political parties and independent sectors.

The Armed Forces and Carabineros will continue to fulfill their responsibilities with great patriotism and strict support for the current laws until the conclusion of their constitutional mandate. The country cannot stop, nor can the work done by all Chileans be minimized. No one, whether they be supporters or adversaries of the government, should doubt that the Constitution provides a solid and effective guarantee for the people to freely express their will, which is necessary for public decisions to be obeyed and for the country to move ahead in peace toward full democracy.

The Constitution contains the values of a free society aimed at the common good. Like any other human work, however, it can be perfected in accordance with the mechanisms established therein.

Therefore, I call on all Chileans to abandon disruptive positions; the government will not accept proposals from groups or sectors that advocate or practice violence, that do not respect the rights of people or the value of nationality, or that sign political agreements with people who disregard institutional order.

I am sure that the government's behavior and good faith during and after the plebiscite demonstrate the profound democratic content of the political order defined by the Constitution and the government's firm willingness to fulfill its commitment with the people.

The government will conclude its institutional work. The Armed Forces and police believe that this is an unwavering historic task. The massive participation of the people in the recent plebiscite and the clear expression of civic-mindedness demonstrated on that occasion are an undeniable confirmation of the prevailing order and the real meaning and range of the controls that regulate the transition.

The government will continue to run the country from the modernizing aspect of its economic and social policies, plans which have already been fulfilled to a large extent. On instructions from the president of the Republic we are going to emphasize the solution of problems affecting the medium and lower sectors. We are aware that many social needs have not been satisfied, but we promise to find the most adequate solutions to these needs.

However, we want it to be clearly understood that the struggle for solving social problems is everyone's responsibility, not only the government's. Therefore, I call on all Chileans to cultivate a real social spirit and enthusiastic attitude for building a solidary coexistence. Countries do not progress only by virtue of laws, but with the work and perseverance of their people. Greater general well-being can only be attained by making room for broader initiatives by the various sectors of the national community, particularly from the private area. All this poses a challenge to the people of the country to exercise their creative talent and their sense of social solidarity. We are building a country for the younger generations.

The strict adherence to the permanent values of political freedom and social justice of our youth is the foundation of the transforming actions undertaken during this period. We will continue in the future to ask of the youth an ever-increasing receptive attitude toward the purpose of our mission, because this regime upholds and supports the same ideals they serve. Despite the political manipulation by which some try to separate the youth from the government's line of thinking, I am sure that they will reject the mediocre, statist, and narrow horizons offered by some political parties which have neither renewed themselves nor adopted positions in line with the new realities of the comtemporary world.

The discourse of the opposition that has for years charged the regime with not establishing democracy is refuted by the facts today more than ever. The government intends to turn that charge into a commitment to the Constitution and a resistance to attempts to dismantle this regime. In the stage that is now beginning, the country will have to choose among concrete historical projects and formulas for economic, social, and cultural advancement. The decisions to be made next year will be crucial ones, and the government expects that they will be made in a responsible and thoughtful manner. Among the various positions and alternatives that will be presented, with due respect for the Constitution and the laws, to the people's choice, the government will not take any partisan preference. It should be understood in this respect that the government only has a secondary political role in guaranteeing the normal activities of the political parties and the independent sectors.

The Chilean people will have to demonstrate that the conditions are right for independently, maturely, and responsibly making decisions that will affect our future. On the government's side, advancements have been made in the creation of an efficient state, a modern productive structure, and in the implementation of policies of social development that are examples of technical capability and social sensibility. We have thus experienced a process of sustained growth, the implications of which are clearly appreciable. Consequently, there is no room for backtracking from this promising situation that has been forged by the government with the contribution of all Chileans.

Although the government firmly intends not to get involved in the coming electoral process, it cannot help but voice a warning about the danger that would be posed by the coming to power of parties with totalitarian inclinations—parties that cannot accept the institutional order. The electoral victory of such parties would endanger the peace and progress that we have achieved. The government invites the Chilean people to reject forever the aspirations of the extremists who see in any electoral contest an opportunity to disclaim the permanent basis of a political and social order. We do not intend to assume responsibilities that belong to the political parties and the independent sectors, but the government has the legitimate right to hope that its platform of freedom and stable democracy will be carried forward by its partisans.

I therefore call on the people to rally behind those ideals. If the majority supports those ideals, we can continue consolidating a prosperous, free, and united society in the country. I feel, however, that the call for responsibility should be more emphatically directed to the political opposition, because the smooth operation of a democracy presupposes a responsible opposition. This opposition must be capable of being an alternative government and must have no intention of breaking with the existing institutional order, which could inevitably lead to confrontations.

After the plebiscite, terrorists carried out various attacks. All true democrats should condemn acts that violate the laws of civilized coexistence. The country expects true democrats to come out against this type of activity, and not only with words. It expects them to isolate the small groups of radicals who practice violence and threaten public order and peace. These are the conditions under which the population must face the 1989 political year.

The opposition must abandon all positions that are contrary to the peaceful transition to democracy. The president asked the opposition 20 days ago to clearly confirm or deny that they still held their election campaign position supporting a break in the institutional order.

The government will remain willing to debate or exchange views in a respectful and serious manner, within the letter and spirit of the current laws.

The government approaches the transition calmly and will not yield to impatient calls or pressures, because the path we must follow is perfectly and neatly drawn. The large majority of Chileans know and accept this.

Therefore, the warnings or threats of disturbances and rioting made by many opposition leaders are completely out of order. The population itself asked that the period after the plebiscite be marked by reason and moderation. Those who agree with the principles of freedom, justice, prosperity, and order should be satisfied in this process and should isolate the terrorists.

The only effective way to end violence is to stop helping, covering, protecting, and justifying those who practice terrorism. I hope that a climate of moderation will make it easier for the government and the political parties to accept each other. The government is sure that within these principles the parties can find a general agreement that will benefit all Chileans, without renouncing the government's commitments of 11 September 1973 or the obligations imposed by the Constitution.

Ladies and gentleman, I conclude by saying that a serious and responsible consideration of the call I am making will certainly allow the Chilean people to face the important

decisions of 1989 in a climate of respect for civic rights. We will thereby ensure our continued progress in accordance with our best traditions. Thank you.

National Party Leader on Constitutional Reform

PY1111202088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Excerpt] National Party [PN] President Patricio Phillips has proposed creating a commission comprised of representatives of sectors that supported the yes-vote in the plebiscite to discuss reforming the 1980 Constitution.

The PN believes the commission could be headed by former Senator Francisco Bulnes, a member of the National Renewal Party political commission.

Phillips said it is essential that the supporters of the regime agree on constitutional reforms before talking with the democratic opposition parties.

[Begin Phillips recording] We have to have a clear idea of what we mean by constitutional reform. We could approach the other democratic parties after we agree on our position on the issue. Then we can talk to the opposition to see their intentions and how far they want to go in the matter. Finally, we could submit a proposal to the executive branch because, according to the current Constitution, the executive branch has to propose the reforms. [end recording]

Phillips said that perhaps then it will be easier to approach constitutional reform with General Pinochet. The National Party has already talked with former Senator Francisco Bulnes, who reportedly said that the National Renewal Party will discuss the matter next week. [passage omitted]

Teitelboim Discusses Referendum, Future

AU0811074288 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 5-6 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Berlin (ADN/ND)—At a news conference in Berlin on Friday [4 November], Volodia Teitelboim, member of the Political Commission and Secretariat of the PCCh Central Committee, gave a report on the situation in Chile following the referendum. He said that the people's resolute "no" in the referendum on 5 October must now be followed by the overthrow of Pinochet and the return to democracy. The former senator said that the most urgent condition for the path into the future is the creation of a broad unity of all opposition forces which can win a victory over Pinochet. He said that the Communist Party also considers cooperation, in particular with the Socialists, a decisive step.

He said that quite a few things have changed in Chile through the broad mass movement. High officers who served the dictator most loyally have had to resign now under pressu e from the democratic public. In addition, it has just been reported that EL SIGLO, the Communist Party newspaper, will be published again legally.

Asked about the present conditions of the struggle, Teitelboim said that the progressive forces in Chile, who had to pay a high price for their resistance in the Pinochet's 15-year rule, continue to be exposed to persecution, imprisonment, and threats of murder. The Communist Party, which has had the largest number of casualties and missing and tortured people since the dictatorship was established, continues to be banned.

Nonetheless, the country is caught up in a wave of mobilization of the people. Volodia Teitelboim confirmed that the Communist Party supports the demand made by the opposition alliance to hold the presidential elections promised by the Military Junta for late 1989 at an earlier date, and to nominate a common presidential candidate. In addition, the Constitution—on the basis of which Pinochet intends to continue in office until March 1990 despite his defeat through the referendum—must be abolished to allow the people to decide on the country's future in freedom.

Volodia Teitelboim paid tribute to the GDR's consistent position in word and deed as a great example of international solidarity with the Chilean people. He said that hundreds of patriots from his country have found a temporary home in the GDR, where they can live and work.

Church Group Comments on Human Rights Issue

PY1111180788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0511 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 10 Nov (EFE)—The Vicariate of Solidarity, a Chilean Catholic Church humanitarian organization, today stated that it will continue to defend and promote human rights. It was referring to the government's statement that the Vicariate of Solidarity will again file charges for alleged human right violations.

The Vicariate of Solidarity said in a public statement that in keeping with the law, anyone whose human rights have been violated may resort to the courts, no matter who was responsible for the crime.

According to the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet, the opposition will try to revive charges against Armed Forces members for "alleged human rights violations" in order to "create problems" within the Armed Forces.

The Vicariate added that labeling a request to the courts to investigate a crime and punish the guilty as "a political maneuver," as the Government General Secretariat did on 9 November, is "a groundless charge that contradicts the most basic principles of a state of law."

The Vicariate of Solidarity stressed that "in the past 15 years, serious, systematic, and repeated human rights violations have occurred, which have never been explained or punished.

The Vicariate of Solidarity stated that "only the courts are empowered to approve legal action." It added that the government statement is "a threat aimed at thwarting court petitions and legal action, all of which is extremely serious for society."

Air Force Repeats Denial on Sale of F-5 Planes

PY1011142188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] The Chilean Air Force [FACh] has denied the sale of F-5 planes through a U.S. enterprise. The FACh has released an official communique on this matter and it was disseminated by Commander Pablo Ortega, chief of the Air Force's Public Relations Department.

He said that the report on the sale of these planes published in JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY pertains to the situation at the end of September 1988.

He added that the Aviation Support Technology [as heard] Enterprise, which acted as the agent for the sale of planes, had the expressed approval of the U.S. Government to carry out that operation.

He said that the planes were to have been sold to governments that were acceptable to the United States. Moreover, and as was reported, new background data has caused the FACh High Command to decide against selling the planes.

Thus, this confirms what was said during the news conference that was held in October at Air Force Headquarters.

Colombia

Minister on Inflation, Export, Deficit Figures

PA1411141988 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 13-A

[Summary] Colombian Finance and Public Credit Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon has said that the government's 1988 economic plan, according to recent figures, has been successfully fulfilled and has been beneficial for the country. Minister Alarcon said that the original goals of the government—45-to-5-percent economic growth [as published], 22-percent inflation rate, lower unemployment rate, 125-percent import rate, 12-percent increase of exports—were comfortably fulfilled, except for the inflation rate.

Alarcon said that by the end of the year national reserves will be approximately $150 million above what was foreseen, minor exports will increase 17 percent, and the public sector deficit will be less than 3 percent of the GNP.

* FEDESARROLLO Views Economic Slowdown

33480034 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Oct 88 p 9-A

[Text] The stagnation of manufacturing and retail commercial activity and the decline in construction have significantly affected the economy's dynamism to the point that it is now valid to talk of recession, according to FEDESARROLLO [Federation for Development].

Moreover, in the institution's view, current conditions are appropriate for restructuring foreign debt: [the country has] a good level of international reserves and solid commercial prospects.

According to FEDESARROLLO, restructuring could improve the financial conditions in which foreign obligations are contracted. The country could also take advantage of the high discount rates given to Colombian debt in international financial markets.

In spite of the slowdown in productive activity, GDP will grow by approximately 4 percent in 1988 due to last year's economic dynamism which generated high production levels in early 1988.

The evolution of statistics from DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics], says FEDESARROLLO, shows significant industrial stagnation between the last quarter of 1987 and May 1988.

Industrial production of consumer goods in particular shows a decline during this period. In the first 5 months of 1988, production was slightly lower than the same period in 1987.

With respect to housing construction, "the expansion of the past 2 years has given place to a serious recession." The land set aside for construction fell some 13 percent in the first half of 1988 compared to 1987.

Since March, retail sales figures compiled by DANE suggest that this sector is also beginning to experience stagnation.

All of these factors have led to a slower increase in employment rates since late 1987.

FEDESARROLLO notes five factors which have brought about this situation:

- The significant rise in food prices and inflation during the first half of 1988 hurt the buying power of most consumers, but especially salaried employees.
- The real income of coffee growers fell because the real domestic price of coffee permanently declined with no corresponding increase in actual coffee production.
- An excessive growth in imports has contributed to reducing real demand for domestically produced goods, a situation which will continue "unless the

deregulation process which the country so imprudently started is reversed."

- Net flows of illegal funds to the country showed a significant decline during the first half of 1988, possibly due to monetary controls announced in late 1987.
- An excessively restrictive monetary policy and high interest rates negatively affected aggregate demand during the first 8 months of 1988.

In FEDESARROLLO's view, recent administrative controls on the cost of money were too timid. Moreover, in spite of the reduction in housing, authorities have set monetary growth goals that are too low.

The restrictive monetary policy has not attained its objective of holding down price increases of nonfood items in the family breadbasket. Moreover, there have been negative repercussions on interest rates and on the liquidity of the financial system.

While imports of capital goods have shown a worrisome fall, imports of durable consumer goods have registered a strong increase, "which is impossible to justify in the country's current situation."

The editorial acknowledges the importance of maintaining the real devaluation of the peso to encourage exports. However, it believes that authorities should accelerate devaluation in order to gain 2 or 3 additional percentage points per year.

New Cauca Department Governor Appointed

PA1011190388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Summary] Cesar Laureano Negret Mosquera has been appointed the new governor of Cauca Department. Negret, 29, a lawyer, is Colombia's youngest governor.

Rebel Meeting Reviews Strategy in Southwest

PA1011174988 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia 0030 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cali, Valle Department—The Southwestern Camilist Union-National Liberation Army [UC-ELN] War Front, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Colombia [PCC/ML], and the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] of Colombia's southwestern region are holding an important meeting to exchange views on revolutionary actions in the southwestern part of the country.

With a revolutionary spirit, the Southwestern UC-ELN War Front and the PCC/ML and EPL of the same region inform workers and the people in Valle, Cauca, Narino, and Putumayo of this successful meeting, during which we have signed national agreements on the tasks pertaining to our regional problems.

We are marching on this path of unity at a time when there is extraordinary activity by the peoples, workers, and guerrilla movements.

We express the hope that the fraternal, united, and fighting spirit that prevailed at this meeting will be reflected immediately in all combat positions where there may be a fighter and militant of any of the three organizatons, the UC-ELN Southwestern War Front, the PCC/ML, and the EPL in southwestern Colombia.

Trade Delegation Attends Meeting in USSR

PA1011175388 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p 9-A

[Text] One of the topics discussed at an international meeting in Vladivostok, in the USSR's Asian-Pacific region, was the increase in Colombian exports to the USSR. As part of the Colombian strategy to gain access to the Pacific region, a delegation headed by Enrique Penalosa, the presidency's economy secretary, attended this meeting. Coffee and bananas are the Colombian products in greatest demand in the USSR.

Ecuador

Borja Congratulates Bush on Election Victory

PA1411024588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0238 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Quito, 11 Nov (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja has sent a congratulatory message to U.S. Vice President George Bush on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections, it was reported today by the state's Media Secretariat (SENAC).

Borja believes that what happened in the United States expresses the vitality of its democracy and "renews our hopes for international peace, friendship, and cooperation."

Borja's message recalls Bush's public actions and asserts his hope that Bush will accurately lead the U.S. people "to face contemporary history's challenges and responsibilities, which include attaining an era of greater welfare, security, and mutual trust among the peoples of the world."

Supreme Court Accepts Taura Rebel Pardon Request

PA1111223988 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice today accepted a pardon request filed by the Taura Base commandos imprisoned in Garcia Moreno Penitentiary and other jails of the country. The magistrates, who analyzed a report on this law presented by the penal commission during a regular session today, decided to accept the request presented by (Dr Jorge Majon Jarami), secretary of the Supreme Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

Rodrigo Bucheli, the Taura Base commandos' defense attorney, described as a vindication of justice at all levels the Supreme Court resolution extending the coverage of the pardon law to the paratroopers who were sentenced for kidnapping former President Leon Febres Cordero on 16 January 1987. The Supreme Court of Justice ruling also gives full force in our country to the pardon law, which was violated by the previous regime, Buchelli said. [passage omitted]

Captain John Maldonado, spokesman for the Taura Base commandos who is imprisoned at Garcia Moreno Penitentiary, told this station that the Supreme Court of Justice resolution acknowledging the validity of the pardon law gives legal support to the demand for freedom. The verdict of the highest-ranking judicial organization in Ecuador is a victory for the Taura Base commandos and the entire country; it also restores faith in judicial institutions, Maldonado added. [passage omitted]

Economic Commission With Peru Reactivated

PA1011141388 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez has announced that after 17 years of inactivity, the Ecuadoran-Peruvian Permanent Economic Commission [Comision Economica Permanente Ecuatoriana-Peruana—CEPEC] will soon meet. The commission is in charge of coordinating economic relations between the two neighboring countries.

The CEPEC last met in 1971 but became inactive shortly afterwards because of the reemergence of an old border problem Ecuador claims it has with Peru, but which Peru does not acknowledge.

The announcement of the meeting, which, according to the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry, will benefit both countries, coincided with the Ecuadoran Government's decision to order, effective Wednesday, the nightly closing of the border with Peru to prevent food contraband. The Ecuadoran Government adopted the same measure on the Colombian border beginning on 25 October to prevent the movement of contraband that has produced a shortage of basic food in northern Ecuador.

Cordovez said that Jose Garcia Belaunde, economic under secretary of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, will visit Quito in the second half of November to discuss the agenda and date of the CEPEC meeting to be held in Quito. It has also been learned that four work groups have been established with the coordination of the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry. They will receive the cooperation of specialized institutions in gathering necessary information. These work groups will evaluate and draft budgets for work dealing with border trade, bilateral trade fairs, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, international transportation, development projects, and technical cooperation.

Paraguay

Daily's Editorial Evaluates U.S. Elections

PY1411174788 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 13 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The U.S. Elections"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. elections have undoubtedly created world interest, and Paraguayans are not immune from it. We became interested because we want to know who is going to run that country and what direction its leadership in the free world is going to take; we are a part of the Western world where the United States is the leader. Taking that into consideration, Paraguayans also evaluated—like the rest of the world—the great differences between a "liberal" and "progressive" Dukakis and a conservative Bush, in the positive term of that word, who will not abandon the permanent values of patriotism but who will sustain the principle of negotiations with its rival superpower in a spirit of peace and from a position of strength. [passage omitted]

The U.S. elections were followed in our country with real interest in accordance with our historic and political experience, but not to the point that just because Dukakis lost "the opposition lost," or just because Bush won "the government won," as some media interpreted the situation in a very superficial manner. Regardless of which government is elected in the United States, we will continue to belong to the free world. We have republican and democratic institutions and a people who also expressed their will in elections that were respected. The question is not whether a Democrat looks at us with antipathy or a Republican with sympathy, but whether the U.S. President, instead of having a commitment with us, will have a moral commitment to know the truth about us, to differentiate what is true from what is false, and to understand and interpret the truth in the face of our historic and political situation. In making such an interpretation the U.S. President should above all be respectful of the will and free determination of the Paraguayan people.

PDC Leader Denounces 'Wave of Repression'

PY1411013488 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 7

[Text] Professor Luis Alfonso Resk faced a serious and embarrassing situation upon returning to the country from a political tour of several South American cities.

Resk, who is a leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], was detained and his baggage was confiscated at the Colonia Falcon border police post. Resk said that Police Inspector Dure beat him and ordered him to strip.

This information was released by Resk during a news conference called by the National Accord at the Casa del Pueblo.

"This incident will not go unpunished; not because it directly affects me, but because it clearly reveals the wave of repression in Paraguay. This incident shows the weakness of a regime that is collapsing, and I believe that incidents like this must be made public to demonstrate the nature of life in Paraguay compared to that in other countries where democracy is being reborn, while violence escalates here," Resk said.

Resk stated: "I want to denounce this serious incident before the local and international public. Police Inspector Victor Dure Pino was its [illegible] instigator." He added: "I returned from a long tour that included the cities of Caracas and Buenos Aires, where I was invited to lecture on human rights at several seminars in which personalities such as former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins participated."

Petition Filed on Behalf of Detained Peasants
PY1011154688 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
10 Nov 88 p 22

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Dr Digno Efigenio Britez, an attorney of the Committee of Churches [Comite de Iglesias], has filed a Habeas Corpus petition with the Supreme Court of Justice on behalf of Florencio Baez and Juan Bautista Areco, both of whom are Paraguayan adults, peasants living in the 3 Noviembre settlement, Guaira Department.

The petition says: "Florencio Baez and Juan Bautista Areco have been illegally detained for the same reason Onesimo Areco, Gabino Sanguina, Roberto Areco, and Desiderio Toledo, peasants of the same settlement, were detained without a court order last October; that is, for being members of the Landless Peasants Commission [Comision de Campesinos sin Tierra]. This committee was established with the approval of the local IBR [Agrarian Reform Institute] representative and with the goal of presenting a list of peasants interested in applying to the IBR for a tract of land of their own in accordance with the Agrarian Reform laws and the Constitution.

Baez and Areco were detained on 7 November 1988 at their homes by policemen of the government delegate's office in Villarrica, where they are being illegally held incommunicado and isolated in a cell.

No criminal prosecution exists against Baez and Areco. No warrant of arrest has been issued against them, and no warrant of arrest has been issued by a judge having jurisdiction. "I make this statement under a judicial oath." The petition concludes by stating the following:

"To file a habeas corpus petition for Florencio Baez and Juan Bautista Areco, who are being held at the government delegate's office in Villarrica, requesting that the Interior Ministry and the Villarrica government delegate present the illegally detained peasants at the Supreme Court within a 24-hour peremptory deadline.

Peru

President Backs 'Freedom of Expression'
PY1411145988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1100 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] President Alan Garcia Perez has reaffirmed his unqualified respect for freedom of expression and for the right of all Peruvians to oppose the government. He did so as he expressed his emphatic repudiation of the threats received by some newsmen.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] The government has always been identified for its utmost respect for freedom of expression, and for the right of all Peruvians to exercise opposition and to voice their discontent. I have always said that a revolution, a transformation process, or any government is valid when it does not impose restrictions. I believe the people have the right to listen to different opinions, no matter how harsh some of them might be, in order to form their own ideas and to make their own choices.

I will never agree to any kind of intimidation, or to any attempt to impose silence. I believe that the country can attest that, even at the worst moment of discussion, I have always upheld the right to dissent, to oppose, and to voice opinions. So, if those threats exist, we would repudiate them and investigate them to trace their origin. These are manipulations that only serve to discredit our democratic system, or attempts to present the party in government as trying to silence things of which the people are aware.

The people are unhappy because prices have gone up, because their buying power has decreased. Who can hide this by preventing a journalist from saying it? Who can hide this by keeping an economic analyst from explaining it repeatedly?

If there are people who want to muzzle the right of expression, of criticism, it seems to me that they are being naive, assuming that the sun can be blacked out by raising a finger. There are economic problems and they will not be solved by preventing the opposition from saying what they want. I have asked the interior minister and the deputy minister to investigate these things. I am very concerned about them. We can have many problems, but we cannot allow people to think that we want to silence them or that the government party wants to halt criticism. I believe that for 3 years the country has attested to this during the conflict over the banks' nationalization and during the economic problems we have experienced this year. We have not in any of these cases resorted to pressures of any sort. The entire country and the opposition have to recognize that we have stood by this essential principle of democracy—free expression. There are elements, however, and I deplore the fact that there should be some elements that can make such threats. I do not believe that the people who report such threats are manipulating, because I know they would not stoop that low. But I believe that there are

some people who are interested in presenting the government and the government party in a bad light, as trying to impose silence. The alternative is simply that those elements are trying to intimidate, just to play jokes in bad taste, using the name of a person who does not deserve to be used in such manner. There are some contradictions in this, because the so-called Rodrigo Franco Command, if it exists, acts in quite contradictory ways. First came the case of Lawyer Febres, who was found with 5 bullets in his neck in July, and then the famous Rodrigo Franco Command emerged, improperly using the name of a person whom we so greatly appreciate.

[Reporter] That command has been mentioned as being related to the APRA.

[Garcia] Of course, it has been related. In this case it is sending messages. Some of these messages are even sent to the newspapers for publication, and are written by the same hand. I do not understand. In one case that command shows up as a killer in a direct action; in another case, it shows up sending messages. I do not believe that the same people are involved. Why should they act differently? Either this is the action of a fool who believes that he thus helps the government, or the action of some people who are interested in simulating an intimidation campaign. In both cases, I believe that in the name of democracy we must reject these actions. Both Mr Cesar Hildebrandt [SI magazine director] and Mr Javier Silva Ruete [Solidarity and Democracy president] should have all freedom, as the Constitution grants them, to continue to say what they feel they should say up until 28 July 1990 [when term of President Alan Garcia ends]. [end recording]

Defense Minister Reasserts Support for Democracy

PY1211152288 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez-Albujar has emphasized that the Armed Forces permanently support the democratic system in accordance with the constitutional laws.

[Begin recording] [Lopez-Albujar] The Armed Forces permanently support the democratic system, because this system better conforms to our society and because it has been freely chosen by our country. The Armed Forces support the Constitution not only because it is their constitutional mandate to do so, but because it is their calling.

[First reporter] How do you view the request made by the SODE [Solidarity and Democracy Party] for the chief of state to resign?

[Lopez-Albujar] This is a political issue, and undoubtedly it must be considered from a political viewpoint. Considering the upcoming elections, I believe that the political parties will undoubtedly make their pertinent proposals and demands.

[Second reporter] Will your ministry implement the proposal for the 1990 elections?

[Lopez-Albujar] No. The Armed Forces are supporting all the expressions of democratic activity. The electoral process will therefore be monitored by the Armed Forces, according to constitutional laws, so that the people may express their belief and freely choose the persons they want.

[Third reporter] Sir, does the defense budget include appropriations for a countersubversive struggle?

[Lopez-Albujar] The budget allocates funds for a number of scheduled activities. The countersubversive chapter includes a proposal for an emergency allocation, which will finance activities of the Armed Forces. [End recording]

Denies Coup Rumors

PY1511030888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez-Albujar today denied reports, datelined Brazil, concerning the possibility of a coup d'etat in Peru and reasserted the Armed Forces' respect for their constitutional duty to maintain the established democratic order.

Gen Lopez-Albujar said that so far he does not have any indication clearly demonstrating the existence of an alleged terrorist group that calls itself Rodrigo Franco.

Shining Path Terrorists Kill Soldiers, Civilians

PY1011154988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0315 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 9 Nov (EFE)—Six people have died in the past 24 hours in attacks by the Shining Path terrorist group against towns in the Peruvian departments of Junin and San Martin.

Police sources in Huancayo, the capital of Junin, 315 km east of Lima in the Peruvian central mountain range, today reported that the terrorists killed one deputy governor, two peasant leaders, and one farmer in towns of Concepcion and Jauja Provinces.

The police reported that two soldiers died and two others were wounded in an armed clash between an Army patrol and Shining Path members in the town of Huayranga, in the jungle department of San Martin. Four soldiers have been reported missing.

The sources did not give details of the clash and they did not say whether the terrorists sustained casualties.

San Antonio de Quiccha deputy governor Gino Loayza and a farmer were killed in Concepcion Province, while two municipal officials were killed in San Juan de Miraflores, in Jauja.

It was reported that in both cases the victims were shot dead in the main square of each town after being accused of being informers and collaborators of the antisubversive forces.

Subversive and antiterrorist activities have claimed more than 12,000 lives over the past 8 years since the Shining Path began its armed struggle.

Two Early Morning Dynamite Attacks Reported
PY1111203588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Early this morning two dynamite attacks occurred here in Lima: one at the house of OIGA reporter Francisco Igartua, the other against the house of French Priest (Jean Mariu Mondet), where a large batch of subversive propaganda was found.

A subversive attack was carried out against a house on 1161 Maricon Checa Street, Zarate District, where French Priest (Jean Mariu Mondet) lives. Bomb squads from the Republican Guard and Civil Guard are here to investigate. According to reports, the attacks occurred after 0100 this morning when two individuals threw explosive devices from a vehicle.

After the attack, police arrested the following three individuals: (Ponciano Abdiar Lopez), 28 years old, a University of San Marcos student; (Perfecto Victor Ramilis y Fuentes), 39 years old, a Chamber of Deputies employee; and (Teodoro Victor Matos), a employee of Entelperu [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru].

[Begin recording] [Policeman] Subversive literature from the MRTA and the Shining Path was found. Not very much, but enough to indicate possible links with subversive groups.

[Reporter] Is the French priest linked to the subversives?

[Policeman] That is under investigation.

[Reporter] How many people have been arrested?

[Policeman] Four people. They are being taken to police headquarters for questioning to determine if they are linked to any subversive movement.

[Reporter] When did the attack occur?

[Policeman] At approximately 0045. Members of Civil Guard bomb squad came here immediately to conduct an investigation.

[Reporter] Have there been any injuried?

[Policeman] No, only some material damage. [end recording]